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THE TIMES



No. 66,211

TUESDAY MAY 26 1998

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£30,000
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TUESDAY
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WEEKDAYS

Swiss bank knew Nazi gold was looted

By Peter Capella and Tom Rhodes

SWISS central bankers knew that Nazi Germany was stealing from the Jews and occupied countries when they bought £280 million of gold from the Reichsbank during the Second World War, a team of historians reported yesterday.

The Independent Commission of Experts set up to investigate Switzerland's dealings with the Third Reich, confirmed that the Swiss National Bank bought gold worth more than \$2.5 billion at today's prices and then pretended that it did not know where it had come from.

The report — the second by the Swiss-appointed commission — effectively accuses the Swiss bank's wartime governors of acting in bad faith and dismisses most of the official explanations for their behaviour.

"As of 1941 the board of governors became increasingly aware that Jews and other persecuted groups were being robbed, and in 1943 at the latest, the bank had knowledge of the systematic extermination of victims of the Nazi regime," the report said. The bank's claims that it did not know the true origins of the gold was "an after-the-fact construction used to justify its own actions".

The bank was forced to apologise yesterday after the report also revealed that it stored at least 19 kg of gold plundered from Holocaust victims on behalf of the Third Reich, although the experts emphasize that it probably did not realise the true origins of that gold. "The National Bank regrets most profoundly that in accepting gold deliveries from the Reichsbank, it may have unwittingly also have acquired gold deriving from victims of concentration camps," it said in a statement.

Switzerland bought up to \$280 million of Nazi gold during the war. Swiss commercial banks handed another \$50 million of gold until October 1941, mainly to finance German purchases of raw

materials and US oil through a series of complex financial arrangements with Portugal.

The 200-page document offers a detailed analysis of the motives and thinking of the bank's decision makers. It depicts a group of technocrats apparently oblivious to what was happening beyond Switzerland's borders. "They did not understand what crimes and what tragedies lay hidden beneath their speeches, their arguments, their calculations, their pettiness and their self-confidence."

By June 1942, the governors were even considering resmelting Reichsbank gold because they feared the impact of blocking lists issued by the Belgian Government in exile. Most of the looted gold came from Belgium and The Netherlands. "From today's point of view, it is shocking to see how the national bank responded to the problem in summer 1942," the report comments.

Despite claims that Switzerland's finances were under pressure from an American blockade of Swiss assets in 1941, the international historians also underline a degree of opportunism. They believe the rhythm of the gold transactions suggests "that decisions about the changing scope of the transactions were not made independently of expectations of the war's outcome."

The bank is now under pressure from Swiss commercial banks and American-based Jewish groups to join a global financial settlement for Holocaust victims and their families in the United States. But the Bank yesterday rejected any further action and said it regarded a 100 million Swiss franc contribution it made last year to a humanitarian fund for Holocaust victims as appropriate.

Greta Beer, the Romanian-born Jew who first raised the issue of Nazi gold before the US Congress, said that the latest report proved what she had been saying for more than two years. "Of course the delinquent bankers in Switzerland knew it was Nazi gold; they knew it 100 per cent. And they went after it anyway."

She added: "They are criminals and in many ways they were worse than the Germans; they pretended to be neutral, to be friends, but look what they did. They have blood on their hands."

Kohl allays fears, page 12



Under the rising sun: a soldier of the Household Cavalry on duty in Whitehall beneath a Japanese flag flying in honour of Emperor Akihito's state visit. Former prisoners of war are threatening to turn their backs on a ceremonial procession down the Mall today. Report, page 2

Safety fears put brake on cycling push

By Arthur Leathley
TRANSPORT CORRESPONDENT

MINISTERS have been forced to rethink road safety plans after being told that moves to encourage motorists to walk and cycle could lead to more injuries.

John Prescott, the Deputy Prime Minister, will announce moves next month intended to persuade car drivers to use other forms of transport to help reduce congestion and pollution. Switching to cycling, motorcycling and foot are among ministers' favoured options for short journeys. However, the proposals could conflict with plans being drawn up by transport ministers to tackle high injury rates among cyclists, motorcyclists and pedestrians, particularly the young.

Mr Prescott's hopes to quadruple the number of cycle journeys by 2012 have caused the greatest worries among government safety advisers. One said: "Getting people out of their cars is not all benefits. Cyclists, pedestrians and motorcyclists are highly vulnerable and, until changes are made to improve safety, they are just sitting ducks."

Hundred hospitals facing closures or cuts, say Tories

By Andrew Pierce
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

THE number of hospitals threatened with closure or cuts has passed the hundred mark for the first time since the general election because of the financial problems in the health service, according to a Tory party survey.

Ministers are now under pressure from their own backbenchers to intervene to try to slow down the pace of the shutdowns.

The Conservative study published today shows that 62 hospitals have been earmarked for possible closure with a further 39 facing reductions in services. Most are in the shire counties and the countryside.

The closure threat has been triggered by the demand for savings and the merger of 32 trusts as part of the Government's reorganisation of the health service. Hospitals are being shut or merged, accident and emergency departments closed, cancer services reduced and medical services shared. Thousands of hospital beds will be lost.

The result will be larger hospitals with a full range of specialist



"Give it to me straight — how long have we got?"

skills, but some patients will face longer journeys for treatment and many community and cottage hospitals will disappear. Labour — which accused the Tories of closing 245 hospitals between 1990 and 1997 — has, however, dismissed the Tory survey as misleading. "They assume that because a trust merges a hospital will automatically close. That is not the case," said one senior source.

Nevertheless many Labour MPs, uneasy about the threat to their local hospitals, have lobbied ministers for a policy reversal. David Hinchcliffe, the Labour chairman of the Commons health select committee, said: "This is something which is affecting many areas of the country. I am among a number of MPs who face difficult decisions about the location of hospitals in or near my constituency. People have a great loyalty and affinity to their local hospitals. They are reluctant to travel."

John Maples, the Shadow Health Secretary who conducted the survey, said: "We fear that this may be just the tip of the iceberg. There are more than 101 nationwide. The true figure could be even higher."

A Department of Health spokesman confirmed that a number of health authorities were engaged in consultations which could lead to hospital changes. The spokesman said that virtually all the proposals under consideration were published during the lifetime of the new Government. "Closures of hospitals do not and never have equalled a reduction in service."

Leading article, page 21

Hong Kong victor wants democracy

Martin Lee, head of Hong Kong's Democratic Party, won his place on the first legislature elected under China's rule, and called for full democracy in the former British territory by 2000.

Pro-democracy candidates won more than 50 per cent of the popular vote, and Mr Lee said that it was in the interests of the Beijing leaders to heed that strong message that the people of Hong Kong wanted democracy.

He and his allies had been ousted from the Legislative Council last July, and had promised to return. Pages 13, 21

Biotech research head feels guilty

Peter Lewis, the former research and development director of British Biotech, says he feels guilty for failing to take a stand against the company's flawed strategy to commercialise its drugs.

He says he left quietly to keep his share options, which are estimated to have made him a profit of more than £1 million. Page 48

Take the fast track in style to Heathrow

The Heathrow Express, to be unveiled next month, will offer a 15-minute journey from Paddington, West London, to the world's busiest airport. The service will be run by BAA, the airport operator, and will have television screens, classical music and spacious seating for a one-way fare of £10 or £20 first class. Page 7

Wedding belle and the customs men

The marriage of Prince George and the stylish Princess Marina of Greece was the society event of 1934, but it was also the subject of an intense Whitehall battle over whether the bride's French trousseau should be liable to customs duties. Page 6

It's a nice little Aussie red — with a hint of Spain

FROM ROGER MAYNARD
IN SYDNEY

White wine from a Black vineyard

THE first "black" white wine produced in South Africa is being launched in Britain this week. Sales of South African wine in Britain soared in the post-apartheid era to more than 11 million cases a year. Now New Beginnings wine is being hailed as a symbol of the new South Africa — it is grown on a vineyard owned by former labourers and is blended by a former non-white winemaker. Klein Begijn Boerdery, which makes New Beginnings, was formed when estate owner Alan Nelson agreed to give 25 acres of his vineyards to 16 families who worked for him in recognition of their services.

shortfall in Australian red, however, that 80 per cent of some wine box contents is imported. Big names such as Orlando-Wyndham, which produces Jacob's Creek, have admitted that they were having so much trouble meeting back orders for reds that they had no alternative but to use foreign fermentations to fill their casks.

Southcorp Wines, another of

Australia's biggest producers, has revealed that it has been forced to add imported wine to its casks for the first time in its 150 years — not that they are keeping it secret. Every container has to carry a label detailing the percentage of imported wine in the box. Indeed, any imports totalling more than 5 per cent have to be acknowledged by law.

The shortage of Australian red is the result of the enormous success it has enjoyed over the past few years. A decade ago, Australian white was so popular that growers replaced their red vines with increasingly favoured whites such as Chardonnay.

What no one expected was the

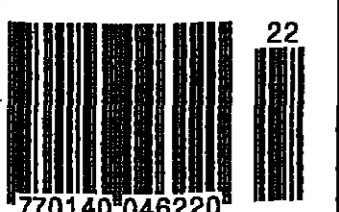
extraordinary demand for red wine in the mid-1990s, which left local producers with a massive hole in their stocks. They decided to plant red grapes again, but it takes five to seven years for new plantings to produce commercially. Thus it will be the turn of the century before the industry can take full advantage of the larger grape harvest.

Ian Sutton, the chief executive of the Winemakers' Federation of Australia, said an extra 86,000 acres of grapes had been planted in recent years, but the shortage would remain for some time.

So for the time being, buyers of Australian boxed wine will have to get used to a drop with a cheeky Spanish bouquet.

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SDLP rejects Sinn Fein's call for pact

JOHN HUME's nationalist Social Democratic and Labour Party turned away from the traditional sectarian politics of Northern Ireland yesterday as it rebuffed Sinn Fein's call for an electoral pact in next month's elections to the new assembly.

"The people have voted in great numbers for a new partnership right across the community and between traditions," said Rodgers, a leading party official. "The type of pact that's now being suggested is within one section of interest and would run totally contrary to the spirit of the agreement which people have voted for."

SDLP officials said the priority was to keep hardline Unionist opponents of the peace accord out of an assembly that they wanted to wreck. Under the single transferable vote system, supporters should give their transfers to pro-agreement candidates from Sinn Fein, the centrist Alliance Party or even the Ulster Unionist Party. Those transfers could be critical as the sixth and last seat in each of the 18 constituencies is likely to be settled by a tiny margin.

Pat Doherty, Sinn Fein's vice-chairman, called for the

Party turns away from sectarian politics in favour of cross-community alliance, writes Martin Fletcher

"formal voting arrangement" at a Belfast press conference. He argued that it was important to maximise nationalist representation in both the assembly and the new north-south ministerial council in order to "meet Unionists on the basis of equality" and "to ensure effective and immediate change".

But it was a call made without much expectation of success. Sinn Fein and the SDLP are bitter electoral rivals with Gerry Adams's party having made no secret of its ambition to supplant the SDLP.

Sinn Fein also sought to dismiss IRA disarmament as a "dead-end issue" foisted onto the agenda by reactionaries opposed to the peace process. But John de Chastelain, the head of the international decommissioning body, said weapons could not simply be left to rust away.

"Rusting in the ground is something more in the past

than it is in the present. Things get wrapped in polythene and heavily greased and you can put them in the ground and they won't rust," he said.

"I think the concern of people in Northern Ireland is that if you leave large numbers of weapons in play, no matter how well they are guarded, there is a chance they will fall into the hands of people who have nothing to do with the political process."

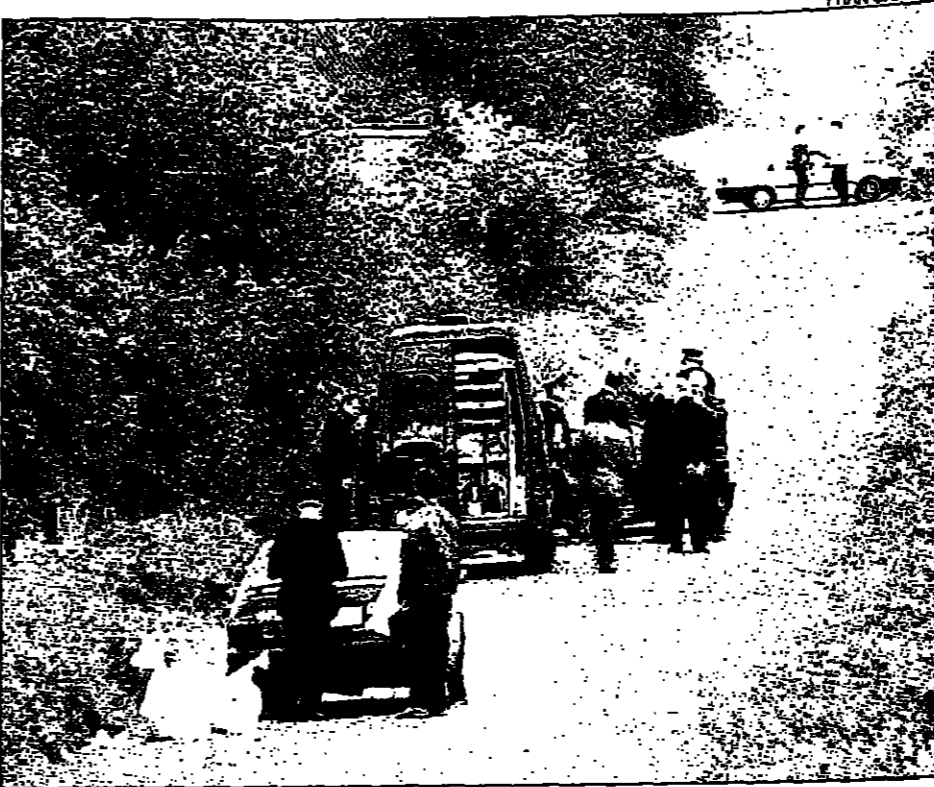
Paul Murphy, the Political Development Minister, stressed that decommissioning was an indispensable part of the agreement. Andrew Mackay, the Shadow Northern Ireland Secretary, said the Tories would seek to amend forthcoming Bills to implement the agreement if they did not make disarmament a clear condition of IRA prisoner releases or Sinn Fein joining a Northern Ireland Cabinet. "We will be scrutinising this legislation to make sure the

people of Northern Ireland have not been let down," Mr Mackay said.

Tony Blair is expected to make another visit to Northern Ireland in the next few days, this time to encourage those who voted for the accord to turn out again on June 25 to elect candidates determined to make the agreement work.

The Prime Minister last night gave a warning to extremists attempting to destroy the process. "Friday's vote makes it far harder for them to operate. They will find themselves starved of the support they have had in the past — at home and overseas. And I can also guarantee that both ourselves and the Irish Government will show no mercy to people going back to violence," he wrote in the *Belfast Telegraph*.

David Trimble, the UUP leader who is striving to reunite his fractured party, received some encouragement when the East Londonderry constituency association selected three pro-agreement candidates for the assembly. East Londonderry is the constituency of William Ross, one of the most prominent of the six UUP MPs who opposed the accord.



Irish police examining two cars that were stopped at the border on Saturday

Travellers questioned over poll bomb attempt

By Audrey Magee, Ireland Correspondent

TWO members of the travelling community were being questioned by Irish police last night about an attempted bomb attack aimed at marauding the Northern Ireland referendum.

The cousins, aged 34 and 37, are thought to be members of the rebel IRA group linked to the political organisation headed by Bernadette Sands McKeivitt, sister of the IRA hunger striker Bobby Sands.

The breakaway group comprises former members of the IRA but, like many terrorists on the southern side of the border, they have switched allegiances in protest at the IRA ceasefire and peace process. Most of the 70 members come from the border area in the Irish Republic, but an increasing number are joining from South Armagh, the IRA stronghold in the North.

The group, which calls itself the "real IRA", is thought to pose a genuine security risk

because of the bomb-making skills some new members are bringing from the IRA. The leader, a close relative of Ms Sands McKeivitt, used to ship arms to Northern Ireland and has access to large quantities of Semtex explosive.

The two men were arrested on Saturday 200 yards from the border at Carrickaneena, Co Louth, after 940lb of explosive was found in two cars. A police source said: "We knew they would try something because of the referendum, so we were ready for them. They are wreckers and it was an ideal time to wreck."

The bombing attempt was the third in the North by the "real IRA". The first was on St Patrick's Day as Gerry Adams, the Sinn Fein president, was meeting President Clinton in Washington, and the second came on Good Friday as the peace deal negotiations were concluded.

It is understood the "real

IRA" is giving bomb-making assistance to the Continuity IRA, the group which first emerged in 1995 in opposition to the IRA ceasefire. The CJRA is linked to Republican Sinn Fein, the hardline political group led by Ruairi O Bradaigh, which split from Sinn Fein in 1986.

Ms Sands McKeivitt, vice-president of the 32-County Sovereignty Committee, said history showed that violence erupted in Ireland when people were denied their rights. "I feel that, when the realisation sets in about what we have lost, people will experience a terrible sense of loss and this will sow the seeds for the future."

"We will find ourselves back on the never-ending spiral of what has gone before. As long as there is British interference in our country, naturally there will always be resistance. I can understand that."

Ministers agree EU code on arms sales

FROM CHARLES BREMNER IN BRUSSELS

BRITAIN secured agreement from the European Union yesterday for a code of conduct on arms sales after watering down the plan to accommodate French demands for greater secrecy.

Robin Cook, the Foreign Secretary, said that the non-binding, British-drafted agreement, aimed at deterring arms sales to unsavoury regimes, was a "substantial step forwards".

Under the new rules, due to be finalised next month, EU countries will take account of eight criteria when deciding whether to issue export licences for the sale of military and security equipment. The code, which extends one of Labour's election promises into Europe, was given approval after Mr Cook overcame objections from France, which is second to Britain in the league of European arms exporters.

Mr Cook agreed to a demand from Hubert Védrine, the French minister, to scrap a rule that would have obliged a state to notify the other 14 EU members if it was taking up a sales contract that had already been refused by one government for ethical reasons. Instead, the selling state must now inform only the government which first refused the deal.

Mr Védrine said the code, which included a set of criteria for judging potential client regimes, was "a very good first step". France had "brought a touch of realism and seriousness" to the code. However, ministers from several northern states found the guidelines weak.

PARAMILITARY GROUPS OBSERVING AND IGNORING CEASEFIRE				
NAME	EST MEMBERSHIP	AFFILIATION	CEASEFIRE?	POLITICAL WING
IRA	Several hundred with thousands of supporters	Republican	Yes, second since Aug 94	Sinn Fein
Continuity IRA	Under 50	Disident IRA Republican	No	Republican Sinn Fein
"Real" IRA	About 70	Disident IRA Republican	No	32 County Sovereignty Committee
INLA	Under 30	Republican	No	Linked to the Irish Republican Socialist Party
UDA/UFF	Several hundred supporters	Loyalist	Yes: Oct '94	Ulster Democratic Party
UVF	About 300	Loyalist	Yes: Oct '94	Progressive Unionist Party
LVF	Up to 150	Loyalist	Yes: May '98	None

Veterans defy Blair's plea over Emperor

TONY BLAIR was rebuffed last night by former prisoners of war, who rejected his plea for a warm welcome for Emperor Akihito's state visit. They called instead for members of the public to support them by turning their backs as the Emperor of Japan rides with the Queen in an open carriage down the Mall today.

The Prime Minister's official spokesman had issued a long statement urging a dignified reception for the Japanese head of state. Downing Street emphasised that Japan was one of Britain's most important export markets, generated billions of pounds in trade, and tens of thousands of jobs depended on maintaining good relations.

The statement was seen as a message to the Second World War veterans not to proceed with their high-profile protest. But veterans' leaders rejected the appeal out of hand, accusing Mr Blair of being prepared to say anything to prevent damaging trade.

Organisers of the silent protest said that they hoped about 1,000 war veterans and civilian internees would gather on the Emperor's route in front of the world's television cameras, to press their claims for a full apology from Japan for wartime atrocities and compensation of £14,000 each.

Downing Street acknowledged the bitterness of some veterans, but said "that to allow our relationship to be defined solely by the past is to fail to understand fully the achievement of those who

Call for warm welcome meets cold response, report Alan Hamilton and Andrew Pierce

ocratic and committed to peace. Relations between our two countries have never been better.

"It is for all those reasons that the Prime Minister believes we have every reason to be hopeful and confident about the relationship between our two countries and why he wants the Emperor's visit to be a success."

Arthur Titherington, chairman of the Japanese Labour Camp Survivors' Association, which claims 9,000 members, said: "Tony Blair was not a prisoner. He should know that if you ignore the past, you will repeat it." Mr Titherington said that the demonstration was not directed at the Emperor, who was a child during the war, but was a way of sending a message to the Tokyo Government.

Japanese diplomats reiterated that the Emperor was a non-political figure who could not issue apologies, and insisted that an apology to Mr Blair during a Tokyo visit in January remained their Government's stance.

Veterans' organisations calculate that about 9,000 ex-prisoners of war, and 2,000 civilian internees of the Japanese, are still alive in Britain. Martyn Day, the solicitor who acts as their spokesman, said that it would cost the Japanese Government £150 million to pay them the compensation they sought, an insignificant amount when compared with the postwar compensation paid by Germany.



The Household Cavalry parading down the Mall, adorned with Japanese flags for today's visit. Some veterans will turn their backs in protest

Fighting fringe is ready to state case

By Alan Hamilton



John Wyatt, 78, a former POW, says he will join the protests

THEY are old now, and age takes an annual toll of their numbers. But the military and civilian victims of Japanese internment still have plenty of fight left in them. The Japanese Labour Camp Survivors' Association, and the Association of British Civilian Internees (Far East Region) are the veterans' militant wing.

While mainstream old soldiers' bodies such as the Royal British Legion and the Burma Star Association are — officially at least — prepared to be reconciled with a modern Japan, the fighting fringe knows it will never have a better chance to state its case than today, when Emperor Akihito rides down the Mall in an open carriage.

So yesterday they announced that, besides turning their backs as the Emperor passed, they would hand in a letter to him at Buckingham Palace

asking him to convey their feelings to the Japanese Government, their real target.

Veterans' leaders repeatedly insisted yesterday that their argument is not with the Emperor personally, who was 14 when the war ended, and certainly not with the Japanese people.

Sidney Tavender, 80, a veteran of the infamous Burma railway and now vice-chairman of the survivors' association, was scathing when he heard that the Prime Minister had asked them not to spoil the visit. "Tony Blair can go and jump in the river. He didn't survive on two cups of rice a day; he didn't think it a treat if a rat, a mouse or a monkey ran into the camp."

At the time of the 1951 San Francisco peace treaty, ex-POWs received £76 compensation, and civilian internees about £48. They argue that other countries' nationals, notably the Burmese and Swiss, received better com-

ensation, and that the treaty allows them to be similarly compensated.

Martyn Day, a lawyer for the former POWs, said: "The Japanese took 50,000 British servicemen prisoner at the fall of Singapore in 1942; one in three of those died in captivity. Of those captured by the Germans, only one in 25 died. The Germans have paid some £30 billion in compensation and reparations over the years; the Japanese have paid only £2 billion."

"Even the Americans paid £14,000 a head — the amount we are seeking — to Japanese who suffered the inconvenience of being interned during the war — and treated well."

The Tokyo court dealing with the claims has said it will not pronounce until June, when the Emperor is back in Tokyo. For all today's planned protests, the old soldiers' chances of success are not rated highly. Japan wants to forget, even if they cannot.

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Pop greats take on the pretenders



The Supremes perform without Mary Wilson, left, The Drifters without Charlie Thomas, and Sam and Dave without Sam Moore, below. The originals want a Famous Names Registry to protect them

Frankly, new fans do give a damn for old films

BY CAROL MIDGLEY
MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

THE 1939 classic *Gone with the Wind* has been voted the best film of all time in a poll of 16 to 25-year-olds. The wartime romance *Casablanca*, which was made three years later, came second.

Gone with the Wind, starring Clark Gable and Vivien Leigh, was already established as the most popular film of all time, but with an audience covering all ages. The fact that it has scored so highly with a generation more accustomed to films with special effects and graphic sex and violence suggests that old films have an enduring appeal. "Cult movies are enjoying a major revival in the 1990s," said Anthony Edwards, the publicity consultant responsible for the poll.

Classic films are often shown on the television and are available on video, although Mr Edwards pointed out that many of the 1,400 young people surveyed would not have seen *Gone with the Wind* or *Casablanca* - only some of the most celebrated scenes and the posters. "They came top because they are cult movies," he said. "Humphrey Bogart and Clark Gable are seen as real idols," he added.

Gone with the Wind is seen as the ultimate cult movie. *Titanic* and *The Full Monty* are in the top five, but time will tell whether they will become cult movies. *Gone with the Wind* and *Casablanca* are the most famous films ever made. They have been around so long, everyone knows about them.

The Full Monty, the most commercially successful British film ever made, which was released last year, came third; *Titanic*, the new American blockbuster, was the fourth choice. *Star Wars*, the hugely popular 1977 science fiction epic, which was recently re-released, was fifth.

A total of 1,400 people were questioned for the survey, which was commissioned by Burger King to mark the opening of its first Big Screen restaurant, a former Brighton cinema, which will screen classic films for diners.

Veterans of Sixties call on Congress to put a stop to impostors performing their songs under their names, Tom Rhodes reports

A GROUP of American pop veterans have launched a campaign in Congress to thwart hundreds of musical impostors who perform under their names, robbing them of their credibility and concert contracts.

Sam Moore, the surviving half of Sam and Dave, Herb Reed of The Platters, Charlie Thomas of The Drifters and Mary Wilson of The Supremes have joined other greats of American pop in demanding a change in legislation.

The pop pretenders have been the curse of the music business for years: bands separate, the names fall into the hands of unscrupulous promoters, and new performers assume their identities.

"It's not right, it's not original," said Moore, whose former partner, Dave Prater, found another "Sam" and toured America. "Some people will say it's all about the music, but that's like looking at a Picasso and saying it's all about the paint."

By amending the 1947 Lanham Act, introduced to protect durable goods rather than intellectual property, the artists want to establish a Famous

Name Registry administered by the US Copyright Office. Only registered artists could then use the names for commercial purposes.

In testimony before Congress, the genuine stars have described how easily their names are taken in vain and the financial losses they have suffered as a result. Tangled record contracts and copyright provisions have kept some disputes in court for years.

"On any given night you can find 30 or 40 counterfeit groups working in this country," said Joe Terry, of Danny and the Juniors, a group from the early American bandstand generation. "These impostor groups perpetrate a fraud on the public and a terrible injustice on the artists who created the original works."

One agent, he said, offered to

franchise the group's name to five separate bands, all of whom would perform the Juniors' hit *At the Hop*. He said that the agent had told him: "The public doesn't care who's up there."

Wilson said she had spent more than \$2.5 million since 1975 in legal battles trying to prevent numerous groups from adopting the name The Supremes, the Motown creation so long associated with herself and Diana Ross.

So bad has the problem become in the United States that the Great Pretenders, as they are nicknamed by their real counterparts, are able to fool even the most illustrious of audiences. Bill Clinton, when Governor of Arkansas, apparently shook hands with Sam Moore's double at a Sam and Dave day in Little Rock. "That wasn't

me down there," Mr Moore said. "I honestly think that if I had dyed my hair green and painted my face purple, the impostor would have followed suit."

Moore, who, with his wife has founded the Artists and Others Against Impostors organisation, claimed that counterfeit bands had played at the 1992 and 1996 presidential inauguration celebrations.

The stars have enlisted the help of Dennis Kucinich, an Ohio Democrat whose district includes the Rock 'n' Roll Hall of Fame in Cleveland. The Congressman and several leading Republicans are hoping to introduce legislation within weeks that will overcome the legal loophole in the Lanham Act.

"We have to make sure that the impostors are not making a great amount of money pretending to be who they are not," Mr Kucinich said. "We have to make sure the people who are the real deal, the real issue, the real rock 'n' roll artists, the real Hall of Famers, get the recognition and that they also get the financial compensation."



Court refuses widow's plea for translator

FROM CHRIS LOGAN
IN CAPE TOWN

THE young widow of a Briton murdered by robbers hours after learning he was to be a father stormed out of a court yesterday where four men accused of killing her husband were due to stand trial.

Estelle Gaskell criticised court officials for refusing to provide an interpreter so that she could follow the proceedings. Mrs Gaskell, 26, who had faced the alleged killers for the first time since her husband, Stuart, was shot, said she had not been warned that the trial would be conducted in Afrikaans.

Her plea for an interpreter was rejected by senior court staff, who told her that only the defendants had a right to ask for one. "We had no idea this was going to happen," Mrs Gaskell said outside the court. "All the men can speak English but I can't understand Afrikaans. How am I supposed to know what's going on?"

Mr Gaskell, 26, was shot twice in the head by robbers who raided the transport depot in Cape Town he was managing in January last year. Mrs Gaskell and Mr Gaskell's mother stumbled on the robbery when they went to



Estelle and Stuart Gaskell moved to Cape Town in 1996

pick him up from work to go out and celebrate news of the couple's first baby.

They were tied and bundled into the back of a truck, where they heard the shots that killed Mr Gaskell. The Gaskells had sold their home in Bacup, Lancashire, and emigrated to Cape Town six months earlier to be close to Estelle Gaskell's mother, who had settled there with her second husband.

Mrs Gaskell's mother, Gloria Armistead, who sat beside her in court as the four men stood in the dock just feet away, said yesterday: "After the terrible experience my daughter has been through in

losing her husband, we didn't expect to be treated like this."

"They seem to regard my son-in-law's murder as just another fact of life in South Africa, as if it doesn't matter. They won't provide us with an interpreter, yet the men accused of killing Stuart can demand one and get it."

She said they would now have to rely on one of the policemen who investigated the case to explain the proceedings.

A spokesman for the Cape High Court said that the trial had to be conducted in Afrikaans because it was the native language of the defen-

dants, regardless of whether they also spoke English.

The judge adjourned the hearing yesterday after ten minutes because counsel for one of the accused men claimed that he might be unfit to stand trial. Hilton Scott, whose mother sat in the public gallery with other friends and relatives of the accused men, was said to be still under treatment by a neurosurgeon after being shot in the head while on bail earlier this year. The judge gave his counsel 24 hours to consult the neurosurgeon.

Scott and two others accused of murdering Mr Gaskell have been given legal aid to fight the case. A fourth, Quinton Marinus, 25, is paying his own costs. All four men have been out on £600 bail since their arrest.

Since the murder Mrs Gaskell has lived at a secret address for fear of reprisals for her decision to be a key prosecution witness in the case. Last September she gave birth to a daughter, Abigail.

The trial is due to resume today with Mrs Gaskell expected to be the first prosecution witness. Prosecutors said that if the judge accepted Scott was unfit for trial, the case would proceed against the other three.

Rolf Harris: TV's soccer antidote

BY CAROL MIDGLEY
MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

TELEVISION executives have demonstrated their vision of the kind of people who do not like football, with their selections of drama, films and documentaries to serve as alternatives to the World Cup. But it may be a hard time for those who are not much interested in Rolf Harris, historic drama or health issues.

The BBC, which will be showing live coverage of half the 64 matches from France, is offering a string of quality dramas. *Spoonface Steinberg*, Lee Hall's moving play about an autistic child suffering from cancer, which won the Sony award after being broadcast on Radio 4, has been adapted for television

Tribe, starring Anna Friel, Joely Richardson and Trevor Eve, will also be screened.

Hello Girls, a drama about women working in a 1950s telephone exchange, and which was dropped after one series, is being revived and moved to the 1960s. Rolf Harris, the presenter of the hugely successful *Animal Hospital*, has been commissioned to make a special, *Rolf Harris's Amazing World of Animals*, with John Cleese and William Shatner. There will also be a documentary about four women doctors, *Medicine Women*, and a series about children's health on BBC2.

ITV, which will screen the other matches live, will also show the drama series *Bramwell*, a series of Ruth Rendell mysteries and the film *Age of Innocence*,

chosen to run a series of programmes marking the 50th anniversary of the NHS, and specially commissioned films and documentaries that are "strictly non-football". It will run a phone-in every night to discuss the day's World Cup matches, as will Sky News and Sky Sports.

Only Channel 5 is pledging to remain football-free, promising a string of films, drama and light entertainment.

During the Euro 96 championships in England, research showed that one woman in six planned her holidays to coincide with the event. There was fury when the BBC postponed favourites such as *One Foot in the Grave*, *Panorama*, *Watchdog* and *Goodnight Sweetheart* to make way for sport. This year *Coronation Street* and *EastEnders* will be

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TUESDAY MAY 26 1998

Punch-ups show that swimming is all the rage

THERE are collisions and punch-ups, there are lane hogs and aggressive overtakers. Welcome to life down at the local swimming pool.

After "road rage" among motorists, a growing phenomenon of "pool rage" has emerged among those who try to work out the stresses of life with a swim. A Channel swimmer has run into trouble for publicly criticising "women with hairdos" who clutter up the local lido by swimming four-abreast while "gossiping".

Duncan Heenan's comments on the etiquette of swimming in *The Swimming Times* — official magazine of the Amateur Swimming Association — has sparked a response that shows the depth of the problem and parallels with life on the roads.

There has been irate correspondence from women fed up with "macho men" thrashing down the fast lane, complaints about "lane rage" and slow movers who refuse to be overtaken, and whether men or women are more skilled. Pensioners have been seen fighting after collisions.

Mr Heenan, 49, from Cheltenham, said yesterday that some problems had been caused by the popularity of fitness swimming and a lack of lane discipline. "Swimming

Crowded lanes start clash over macho men and 'slow' women, reports John Goodbody

has become fashionable and pools so crowded."

The athlete, who writes under the *nom de plume* of A.D.H. Malone, said in his article: "The most obvious category to avoid is women with 'hairdos'. They display herd behaviour and 'swim' four-abreast, catching up on the week's gossip. The most heinous crime you can commit is to dampen their hair or face. I did once by accident and was kicked in the groin in punishment. Don't be fooled if they wear a shower cap. It shows they mean to stay."

He also drew attention to the dangers of the male with baggy shorts "who will thrash violently, oblivious of everyone else in the pool, and yet go nowhere".

There was also the "preten-

tious" swimmer, so called "because their stroke looks more like hand ballet than a means of propulsion" and whose breaststroke kick is "always timed to coincide with your painful bits when overtaking".

Among respondents, a Bournemouth woman complained about "macho men who do not appreciate that women not only swim better but also have the audacity to have stamina powers vastly greater than his".

Mr Heenan said: "The original article was meant to be humorous, but I have been depicted as a swimming Alf Garnett. But violence does occur. I have witnessed a fight between two pensioners who accidentally bumped into each other in the Sandford Lido in Cheltenham. They had to be separated by the lifeguard."



Into the deep end: a swimmer with a lane of his own. Men may thrash violently or swim "like hand baller", but still pack a painful kick

Cruise firm calls off trip after five hours

By ARTHUR LEATHLEY

HUNDREDS of cruise passengers had to abandon ship five hours after boarding in Liverpool because of engine trouble that prevented the vessel leaving port.

Almost 1,000 passengers on the *Edinburgh Castle* were told that their £2,000 holiday had been cancelled. The ship had been scheduled to depart on Sunday evening for a two-week Mediterranean cruise.

The operator, Direct Cruises of Liverpool, has been dogged by similar problems recently. It had to cancel two voyages by the *Edinburgh Castle*'s sister ship, *SS Apollo*, and the *Edinburgh Castle* was herself delayed by technical difficulties on an earlier cruise in April.

Passengers have been told that they can have a refund and return on Friday for a free ten-day cruise. Dorothy Leather, from Manchester, said: "There we were, unpacked and ready for a nice two weeks, when suddenly we were told we were not going. The cabins were not up to scratch. There was not even any hot water."

Chalets by the sea with a view to inspire art

By PAUL WILKINSON

FORMER holiday chalets are to be offered as studios to attract artists to the seaside resort of Scarborough.

Council officials believe their prime location — with views over the medieval castle, fishing port and Georgian Old Town backed by the sea — will provide just the inspiration the artists need.

In 1993 the 33 chalets along the promenade at the foot of the South Cliff were closed after a landslide swept Holbeck Hall Hotel into the North Sea, but a geological survey has now declared them safe. Some are to be refurbished for holiday lets, while 16 close to the disused open-air pool have been earmarked for artists.

Peter Dahl, the town's director of tourism, said: "Interest has been expressed for a base in the South Bay from which artists could work during the season and have the opportunity to exhibit their work. The chalets are considered to provide an ideal work base with splendid views towards the Old Town of Scarborough and out to sea."



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How Princess's chic fell foul of native customs



The Duke and Duchess of Kent after their marriage

IT WAS the most glamorous society wedding of the year. George V's fourth son was marrying a princess whose style had brought her the admiration of Paris.

But the pending arrival of Princess Marina of Greece, late mother of the present Duke of Kent, provoked a different reaction in London. Secret government papers show that a Whitehall battle took place over the embarrassing question of whether her wedding presents and a lavish trousseau from a French fashion house should be exempt from customs duties.

As Customs feared that it could lose considerable sums, the Treasury revived the age-old rivalry between French and English couture. The Permanent Secretary to the Treasury went so far as to consult the best-dressed women in London over the merits of Paris versus London couture.

The papers, released at the Public Record Office at Kew, show that, instead of purchasing her silk lingerie, coat and dresses from the Paris fashion house of Molyneux and other items at Madame Suzy's, the Treasury thought the Princess should set an example and buy British.

She had spent £202 (about £8,000 at today's prices) on a trousseau that included three morning ensembles, five afternoon dresses, six evening gowns and two coats. A woman's coat cost an average of £3 at the time and a railman earned £286 a year.

The tale of the Princess...

Customs and her penchant for couture clothes from Paris has remained secret since 1934, when she arrived in Britain to marry Prince George, later the Duke of Kent.

The papers do not disclose who made a request for an exemption, but two months before the Westminster Abbey wedding, a Treasury minute stated that, without it, duty should be charged on goods imported by the Princess, who was the younger daughter of Prince Nicholas of Greece and a first cousin of Prince Philip. The Treasury produced an 1874 memorandum written by Gladstone which stated that, apart from the Sovereign, the Royal Family were liable to duty on goods entering the country.

The memo stated that duty would be payable on goods imported by the Princess and on wedding presents sent to her and Prince George from abroad. "If Princess Marina receives valuable presents from abroad of jewellery, for example, the duty might come to a considerable sum," Sir Evelyn Murray, chairman of the Board of Customs and Excise, said.

But three days later, on October 12, the Treasury agreed to exempt the wedding presents from duty but not the trousseau or anything else. A memorandum by Donald Ferguson, principal private secretary to the Chancellor, said that to exempt the trousseau "might excite criticism in Parliament".

Secret papers reveal row over foreign royal's love of French fashion, writes

Richard Ford



The wedding dress worn by Princess Marina

which, along with the wedding dress, was being made at the Paris premises of the English-born couturier Edward Molyneux - continued to exercise high-ranking Treasury officials.

Mr Ferguson wrote: "It is open to the Princess to escape the duty, if she wishes, by buying all her trousseau in this country. But if the Princess prefers to buy her trousseau from a country other than that in which she is



The Princess in furs from her Paris-bought trousseau

married, she must herself pay the appropriate import duty." There matters rested, with an agreement that, "as a foreigner of distinction", her luggage would not be opened on arrival. But she had to prepare a list of its contents to allow duty to be assessed.

But, six days before her arrival on November 21, 1934, it became known that the exemption had upset her future mother-in-law, the formidable Queen Mary, and her fiancé.

A note from Sir Warren Fisher, Permanent Secretary at the Treasury, said that Queen Mary and Prince George were said to be "very annoyed" about the concessions. Sir Warren wrote to Sir Clive Wigram, private secretary to George V, that the concession was extra-statutory and therefore "strictly illegal" and could be challenged by MPs.

He was damning about the Princess's desire for a trousseau purchased in Paris when Britain was still in depression. "It would surely be a proper and graceful act on her part to avoid foreign manufactured goods, particularly at a time when this country has peculiar difficulties, and example is therefore of the first importance," he wrote.

Sir Warren added: "I am not, of course, an authority on women's attire, but I am assured by some of the best-dressed women I know that there is today nothing that cannot be bought in London that does not compare favourably with clothes purchased elsewhere. Moreover,

if it were the case that it is impossible to be well dressed except in French clothes, I am further told that there are in London branches of French firms." Edward Molyneux had premises in both London and Paris.

When the accounts were finally delivered after the wedding, they showed that the Princess had spent a total of £179 on a trousseau at the Molyneux fashion house, including £109 on couture, £47 on lingerie and £15 on a coat trimmed with ocelot. A further £23 was spent on the trousseau at Madame Suzy's.

The duty paid on the trousseau was a total of £72 (about £3,000 at today's prices) and the duty waived on wedding presents to the couple totalled £475 (£18,000).

As the new Duke and Duchess of Kent went on honeymoon, Major Ulick Alexander, Comptroller of their Household, wrote to Sir Evelyn apologising for causing so much trouble and delay over the issue. "But I feel sure you can appreciate the difficulties I have had to contend with," he said.

The Duchess was widely acclaimed for her sense of style and for bringing continental chic to the Royal Family. She was regularly in the list of the world's best-dressed women.

Yet 12 years later, when the Duchess was preparing to go on an official tour to the Far East, her staff applied for a purchase-tax concession on clothing bought for the trip. It was politely but firmly rejected.



Princess Marina was credited with bringing continental chic to the Royal Family

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HALF TERM HOLIDAY TREAT

Green plan to force old cars off city roads

By ARTHUR LEATHLEY, TRANSPORT CORRESPONDENT

MINISTERS will announce plans today to force old cars off the road after new figures revealed that one in five vehicles breaks legal pollution levels.

Government advisers are to be told to draw up plans to allow only vehicles with the lowest emissions into inner-city areas, where pollution is worst. The move is eventually intended to create areas in which only environmentally acceptable vehicles can travel. On-the-spot fines of £60 are also to be imposed more widely for poorly maintained vehicles.

Early findings from trial projects have pinpointed diesel cars, taxis and light vans as the worst offenders in causing pollution, which is blamed for a rise in respiratory diseases, including asthma.

Gavin Strang, the Transport Minister, will unveil plans today to offer free tests on vehicles' emission levels in eight pilot study areas where vehicles suspected of breaking legal levels are already stopped. Motorists who fail to have their vehicles checked voluntarily will in future be more likely to be fined if their vehicles are found to exceed emissions levels when stopped by roadside inspectors. Dr Strang said that even five-year-old vehicles were a hazard if poorly maintained.

"It's a threat to people with asthma and also to people who have a heart condition, so we are determined to clean up these city areas," he said. "That means effectively enforcing lower emissions from our vehicles."

From July, free emission testing and advice on vehicle maintenance will be available in the eight pilot areas:

Westminster, Bristol, Birmingham, Canterbury, Middlesbrough, Swansea, Glasgow and Belfast.

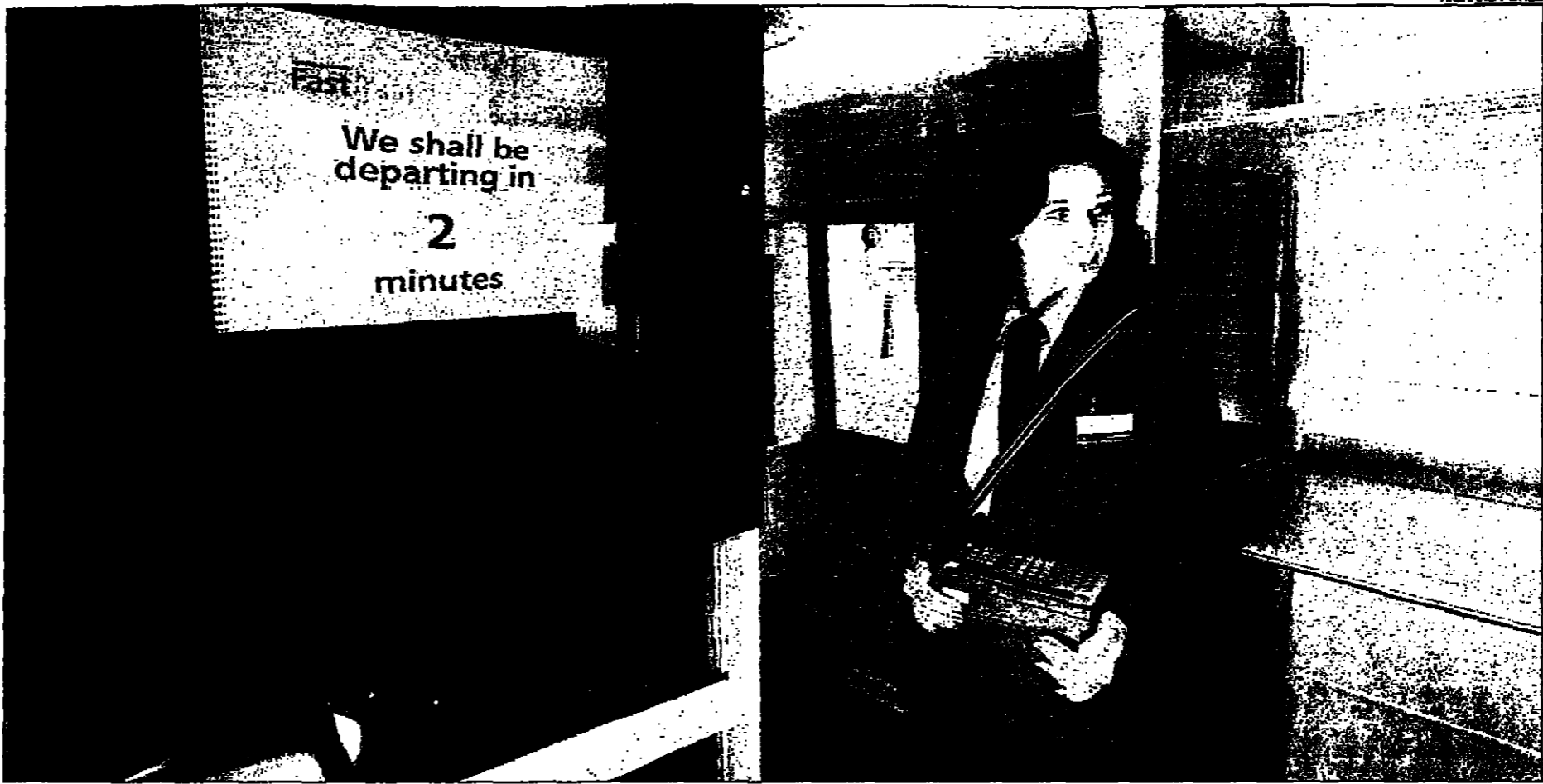
The free tests will complement trial powers granted to those local authorities to fine motorists with dirty exhausts under the Government's "greener vehicles" campaign.

The plans are intended to bring cars, vans and taxis closer into line with regulations designed to make buses and heavy goods vehicles less polluting. If the pilot scheme works, it is likely to be expanded nationwide.

Dr Strang said that the one-in-five failure rate proved that one of the priority areas for the Cleaner Vehicles Task Force, set up by Tony Blair last November, had to be producing guidance for local authorities that wished to set up low emission zones into which only clean vehicles would be allowed. Under the trial tests, the most damaging pollutants are vehicles emitting high levels of particulates and nitrogen oxides, heavily emitted by diesel vehicles.

He said: "What these initial results are showing is that we have many vehicles on our roads that are emitting noxious gases, nitrogen oxide gases and particulates, which are of particular concern in relation to human health and we are determined to tackle the problem. We really have to do something about emission levels and if we raise people's awareness of how to introduce improvements to their vehicles, then they can't complain when fines are imposed."

At present, councils in the trial areas are entitled to fine motorists, but most have been lenient since the scheme was launched last year.



Maria Pardo, a stewardess, comes to work armed with tissues in her pockets to comfort people who are using the train service to see off loved ones from the airport

Flying squad offers fast track to the future

Heathrow link will revolutionise rail travel, writes Arthur Leathley

RAILWAY travel is about to move up a class, at least for millions of passengers entering or leaving Britain.

When Tony Blair unveils Britain's newest train service next month, he will herald standards unseen since the war. The Heathrow Express is the 100mph train link from Paddington station, West London, to the heart of the world's busiest international airport.

Catering predominantly for the business market, the £440 million service will offer passengers television screens, classical music and spacious seating on the 15-minute journey at a one-way cost of £10. A £20 one-way ticket in first-class will buy wider seating, tables and more leg room. A

taxi, car or London Underground journey from Paddington would take about an hour. The Tube fare would be £3.30, while a taxi would cost about £40. Petrol for the 12-mile car journey would set the driver back about £5, at AA mileage rates. Short-stay parking at Heathrow is £10.30 for up to 24 hours, while long-stay is £50 for up to eight days.

Managers are hoping that the Heathrow Express, run by the airport operator BAA, will take 3,000 cars a day off the roads around the airport. They say that the Heathrow Fast Train — which has been running a slower trial service since January to a temporary station near the airport, to be met by a shuttle bus — is



Stefania Dignani, a driver, used to work for Benetton

being used by thousands of travellers each weekday.

However, doubts have been cast on their prediction that six million passengers will use the service in its first year, the equivalent of one in ten of all Heathrow passen-

gers. Rail industry sources point to the continuing problems faced by the loss-making Eurostar rail service to Paris and Brussels.

Managers have deliberately overlooked the rail industry in the search for staff for the service, instead recruiting from the travel, hotel and retail trades and from the Armed Forces. Salaries are about 20 per cent higher than for comparable positions in other railway firms.

The company's policy is not to have a recognised trade union, arguing that staff can deal with problems individually with managers. However, Aslef — which has more than 95 per cent of train drivers across Britain as members — is alarmed at the decision to use drivers for other duties such as collecting tickets.

Stefania Dignani, 28, a modern languages and literature graduate, was working for the fashion chain Benetton in Oxford Circus, Central London, until she saw an advertisement for Heathrow Express. "I had never thought about working in railways, but it just looked

so exciting yet still offered the chance to deal with people." Although selected for training as a driver, she will switch between driving and working with passengers, both on platforms and on the train. "I would hate to be just driving a train, but this gives me the chance to do a bit of everything," she said.

Managers are hoping that politicians and celebrities will use the service regularly, but James Horn, a driver who defected from Thames trains, said: "Staff can't get all excited because there's a big name on board. Everyone is pretty level-headed."

One potential problem is the "weep and wave" passenger seeing off loved ones. Maria Pardo, 25, a stewardess, said: "I come armed with tissues in my pockets, because some passengers come on bawling their eyes out."



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Heads seek freedom to ignore literacy hour

HEAD teachers are demanding the right to ignore the Government's plans for a literacy hour in primary schools, scheduled to be introduced in September. If they believe their methods will be more successful.

A detailed National Literacy Strategy was sent to schools last month with a warning from ministers that head teachers would be required to justify their use of other methods unless their pupils exceeded ambitious targets for English. Ofsted, the inspection agency, was to monitor its implementation.

Subsequent official advice to local authorities said: "Although the NLS is not a statutory framework, there is a clearer expectation that schools will adopt it. If a school chooses not to do so, there should be close consultation with the local education authority on the principle that the onus is upon the school to opt out, not to opt in."

However, the National Association of Head Teachers, which begins its annual conference in Eastbourne today, is challenging the Government's right to enforce guidelines which have no legal force. Delegates are expected to back their leadership's demands that schools should not be penalised for exercising their own judgment on the most suitable pattern of teaching for their pupils.

Following an exchange of letters last week, Chris Woodhead, the Chief Inspec-

John O'Leary reports on calls for ministers to let schools exercise judgment over reading guidelines

tor of Schools, has assured the association that Ofsted inspectors will "judge each school's achievements on its merits", rather than assessing whether it had followed the Government's guidelines.

But David Hart, the association's general secretary, has accused the Department of Education and Employment of interfering with head teach-

ers' leadership and management responsibilities by putting pressure on them to implement the guidelines. He told the official responsible for the policy: "Your strategy has much to commend it. You should rely on legitimate methods of advice and persuasion, rather than attempt to make that which is voluntary, compulsory by other means."

The issue is due for discussion on Thursday. Delegates are expected to reject any suggestion of a local authority veto on teaching methods.

Mr Hart said yesterday: "We fully support the National Literacy Strategy, and many schools already have a literacy hour, but there is a danger of over-prescription here. Where reading is taught effectively, heads must be free to decide whether to adopt these methods in whole, in part or not at all."

The National Union of Teachers has demanded extra training for primary staff before the literacy hour is introduced, as the price of early implementation. Ministers have said that the policy is "non-negotiable" and intend to press ahead at the start of the new school year.

The strategy involves a structured programme of teaching, with an emphasis on phonics — the traditional method of teaching reading by sounding out letters — for an hour a day throughout primary schooling. A pilot programme has achieved impressive results in hundreds of schools.

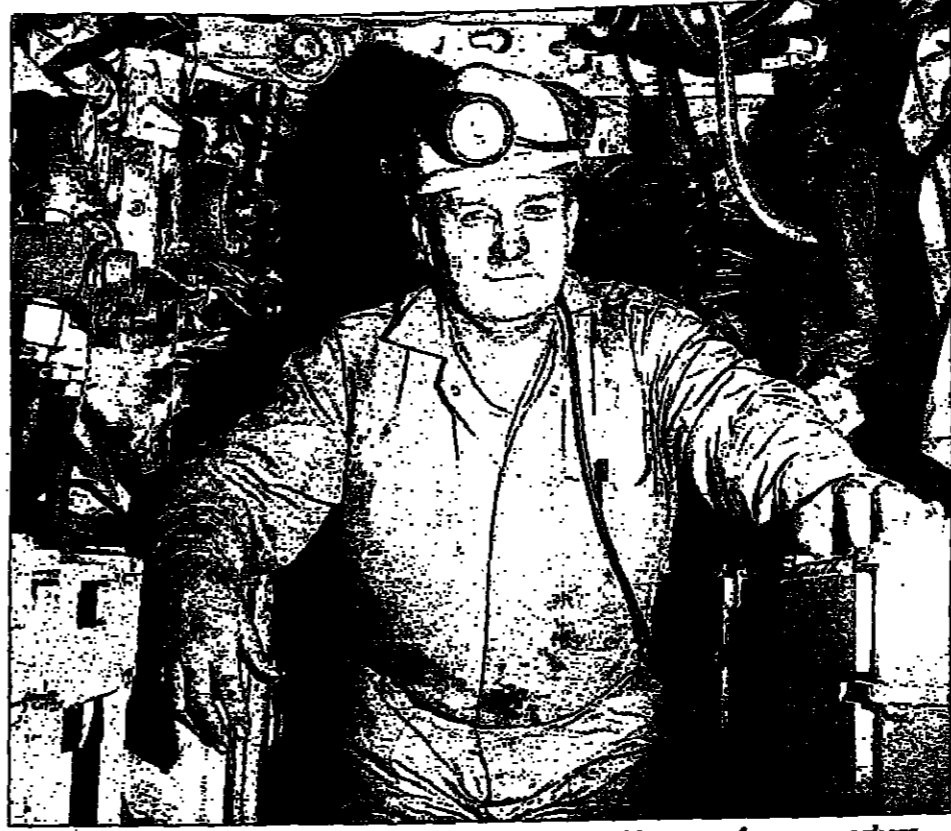
Lawyers specialising in education have said that the Government would be vulnerable to legal challenge if it tried to enforce the guidelines without enshrining them in legislation. But schools would have to show that they had an alternative strategy in place if they chose to ignore official advice on reading.

CALL FOR WEEKLY ASSEMBLIES

Schools should be allowed to hold collective worship once a week, releasing them from the legal requirement for daily assemblies, head teachers will tell the Government this week. The National Association of Head Teachers has waged a lengthy campaign to repeal the law stipulating a daily act of "predominantly Christian" worship, but successive Governments have been unwilling to act, despite evidence that the law is widely flouted.

Delegates to the association's annual conference in Eastbourne are expected to seize on the results of a year-long review approved by the Conservative Government. Most respondents, including the Church of England, backed a more flexible approach.

An internal memo from the Department for Education and Employment, leaked earlier this year, acknowledged that 70 per cent of secondary schools failed to meet their statutory obligations, but only two or three parents complained each year. Ministers made it clear last month that they had no plans to change the law. However, leaders of the association are backing the compromise of assemblies once a week, with the accent on spiritual and moral development rather than an insistence on Christian worship.



John Gates in his days as a coal miner. He kept his hobby secret from co-workers

Redundant coal miner strikes a new seam

A REDUNDANT coal miner who traded his pickaxe for a needle and thread has won an award for outstanding teaching. John Gates, 56, took up sewing during the 1972 pit strike to beat boredom and, when his South Wales colliery closed, he became an embroidery teacher.

During his 20 years at the pit face, and a further nine in colliery management, Mr Gates kept his unusual hobby a secret from other miners.

When the Penallta mine closed seven years ago, Mr Gates realised his hobby could become a new career. He completed a City and Guilds course in fashion and design and persuaded college managers to allow him to run courses in Bridgend and his home town of Maesteg. So far all his students have been women.

"I get a few raised eyebrows, but most people accept it now," said Mr Gates. "I see my former workmates every day and one or two thought it was a bit odd. But I would point out that the best chefs are men and most of the top

fashion designers. Once they realised I was being successful, a lot of them have said well done."

Teaching embroidery is never going to make me a millionaire, but I survive and I am enjoying this more than anything else I have ever done. I am very lucky — I could have been stuck in a job I hated."

Mr Gates, who also teaches computing, recently accepted his first commission: a picture to mark the 25th anniversary of a local vicar's ordination.

His family have also benefited. He embroidered dresses for the weddings of his daughters, Maria and Suzanne, and designs and makes clothes for his wife, Christine.

She said: "I think what he does is marvellous and I have always supported him. It is nice having a man around the house who will do this sort of thing — I know there are many who wouldn't."

NEWS IN BRIEF

Police tapes of suspects found by roadside

Tapes of police officers interviewing suspects have been found at the side of a road in Felixstowe, Suffolk, by a member of the public. The cassettes, marked with the names of suspects and interviewing officers, were handed in at a police station. They are to be destroyed.

The police said that they did not belong to them but to local solicitors and contained copies of police interviews requested by defendants or their solicitors. It is understood that the firm has been asked to review the way it disposed of confidential waste.

Attempts had been made to render the cassettes unplayable by pulling the tape out.

Pigs complaint

Nancy Bennett, 49, who faces possible prosecution after complaints from Muslims over a display of china pigs in the front window of her home in Leicester, had a quotation from the Koran alongside them, it emerged yesterday.

Falcon charges

Two Dutch men and a woman were charged with attempting to trade in endangered birds after allegedly trying to buy peregrine falcon chicks. They were remanded in custody for a week by Inverness Sheriff Court.

Wilcox taken ill

Desmond Wilcox, the television producer, is recovering in hospital after suffering a severe heart attack. Mr Wilcox, 67, who had a heart bypass operation in 1986, was said to be in a stable condition at Southampton Hospital.

Robot telescope

Astronomers from Liverpool John Moores University and the Greenwich Observatory are building the world's biggest robotic telescope. The unmanned Liverpool Telescope will begin operating in the Canary Islands next year.

Cheese roll

Rogue racers defied cancellation of the annual cheese-rolling at Cooper's Hill, near Brockworth in Gloucestershire, when they charged a double Gloucester down the one in two slope. The race was called off for safety reasons.

Jug of plenty

A 1939 Doulton jug featuring a Maori character, bought by two sisters for their mother after their London home was hit in the Blitz, is likely to fetch £10,000 at auction on Thursday. It has been used to store pens for years.

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John Gates with an example of his embroidery work

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1 in 3 thinks disabled are less intelligent

Charity poll finds alarming level of prejudice, writes Alexandra Freen

NEARLY a third of people think that wheelchair users are less intelligent than the norm, according to a survey of public attitudes, which shows alarming levels of ignorance and prejudice about disability.

The survey, conducted by the NOP for Britain's leading disability care charity, Leonard Cheshire Homes, shows that more than 20 per cent of the public believes that people with disabilities should not complain about their lot because they already have equal rights.

John Knight, head of policy for Leonard Cheshire, said that the results of the survey show that negative and ill-informed public attitudes were contributing to the social exclusion of disabled people.

More than half the 1,000 adults questioned said they had no regular contact with disabled people. Among under-35s, this rose to 60 per cent.

Mr Knight said it was findings such as this that led to most disabled people feeling socially excluded. He urged the Government to include disability as one of the areas to be tackled by its recently established Social Exclusion Unit. To date, the unit has focused on poverty as the prime cause of exclusion.

He also urged the Government to include disability education in the national curriculum and to encourage primary schools to involve young children in more dialogue with disabled people.

"What we have is an underbelly of, at best, studied indifference and, at worst, active dislocation by wider society

from the community of disabled people. I suspect that a whole jumble of factors are at work here — fear, ignorance and embarrassment," Mr Knight said.

Despite the negative attitudes of a significant minority of the public towards disabled people, 55 per cent of respondents agreed that disabled people tended to be excluded and were not allowed to be useful members of society. Seventy-five per cent thought that disabled people who worked should remain eligible to receive benefits and 73 per cent agreed that, if they became disabled, their standard of living would fall.

Mr Knight said that disabled people were not looking for special treatment or for sympathy from able-bodied people. "Sympathy reinforces the impression that they are objects of pity; it makes them feel inadequate; and it injures their sense of pride. What they want is for society to relate to them as a person and as an individual, not part of a 'disabled lump'."

Mr Knight gave a warning that the Government's Welfare to Work programme, aimed at getting more disabled people off benefits and into work, risked excluding even further those disabled people who could not work.

"Disabled people unable to work could find themselves being 'exited' from the new stakeholder society being proclaimed by the Government; if a person's worth is equated with earning a wage, they will become devalued if they can't get waged work," Mr Knight said.



Tim Walmsley in one of the new grassland areas at the airport. The aim is to create linked habitats around the new runway that will allow wildlife to move about freely

Airport's wildlife champion is a rare breed

By Russell Jenkins

SINCE Tim Walmsley joined the staff at Manchester airport three years ago, he has helped to move 4,000 great crested newts, 12,000 smooth newts, 3,000 frogs and 13,000 toads from the path of bulldozers constructing a second runway.

The botanist's pride and joy, however, are the bat houses, designed by Bob Stebbings, a leading expert. They look like miniature mansions and now house four species: pipistrelles, whiskered, Brandt's and big-eared brown.

For Mr Walmsley, 36, Britain's

only airport ecologist, leading reluctant species to new homes clear of the runway is a constant battle against nature and the powerful homing instincts of small creatures. He is currently trying to dissuade amphibians from returning to their old ponds, now a muddy construction site to be bred.

"They have been penned in for a year and, hopefully, we will have reduced their homing instincts," he said. "A toad, for example, will always try to return to the pond where it was born to breed."

Mr Walmsley, who lives in the urban jungle near Salford Quays,

Manchester, was working for a charity reclaiming urban industrial sites for wildlife when he was recruited. The move was part of the airport's stated commitment to saving as much flora and fauna as possible during the construction of the airport's second runway, which runs across the Bollin river valley.

He is overseeing the creation of 45 hectares of new woodland in 15 blocks, 25 hectares of wildflower grassland, the planting of five kilometres of new hedgerows and the construction of 97 ponds.

At the bottom of the valley, enormous metal panels have been

constructed to carry the diverted Bollin and its brown trout under the runway. Tree stumps and grasses from the excavated site are sprouting new life in surrounding fields on nutrient rich soil, neatly carved from the countryside by diggers' claws.

Dog's Mercury and wild orchids vie for space among the wild garlic.

The most spectacular phase of Mr Walmsley's work was the "translocation" of wild creatures out of harm's way before the diggers moved in. The BBC 2 series, *Made In Manchester*, captures this phase in two programmes to be broadcast on Wednesday and Friday. It shows the

botanist wading into the Bollin alongside workers from the Environment Agency to stun sticklebacks and brown trout, trapping newts in plastic buckets and inspecting the eaves of old houses for bat dwellings.

"The project is about trying to give nature a little push," Mr Walmsley said. "The amphibians have been a big success story, but we have also managed to create an artificial badger sett because we lost one in the construction. We used a helicopter to fly in materials for the sett. It was a very hush-hush operation. The badgers seem quite happy and we believe they have bred this year."

Clue to seasonal depression Toxins trigger Alzheimer's

By Nigel Hawkes, Science Editor

AMERICAN scientists have discovered a new light-sensitive pigment which is responsible for the body's internal clock. It appears to control the circadian rhythm which regulates functions such as blood pressure, intellectual performance and sleep.

The pigment cryptochrome is found in the eye, the skin and the part of the brain responsible for the body

clock. It is the first new light-sensitive pigment found in mammals for more than a century and the find may help in treating people affected by seasonal depression.

Aziz Sanjar, of the University of North Carolina, who reports on the find with Dr Yasuhide Miyamoto in *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, said: "In the past, it was assumed

that the same pigment was responsible for vision and circadian synchronisation."

The pigment of vision, rhodopsin, was discovered in 1877. It is linked to vitamin A. Cryptochrome, which is linked to vitamin B2, absorbs blue light and sends a signal to a different part of the brain. Professor Sanjar says: "Maybe we can treat some patients with vitamin B2."

HIGHLY toxic proteins trigger the first symptoms of Alzheimer's disease long before the characteristic patterns of brain damage appear. American researchers have discovered.

The new proteins, called amyloid beta-derived diffusible ligands are a new form of amyloid beta protein, which accumulates in the brain of Alzheimer patients as enor-

By Our Science Editor

mous fibres. The proteins are only a tiny fraction of the size of these fibres, but can interfere with the processes of learning and memory long before any physical damage becomes apparent, says Professor William Klein, of Northwestern University in Chicago.

The ligands may account for the loss of memory formation at the early stages of

Alzheimer's disease and for the nerve cell death and profound dementia at the end stages of the disease. The research is published in *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*.

The implications are that, if the symptoms are caught at a sufficiently early stage, they might potentially be reversed, said Grant Krafft, another of the researchers.



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Half an hour in a smoky room 'weakens heart'

By Nigel Hawkes, Science Editor

HALF an hour in a smoke-filled room can weaken the body's defences against heart disease, a new study suggests. The results provide a mechanism for explaining why the risks of heart attacks may be increased by passive smoking, as some studies show.

Mia Valkonen and Timo Kuusi, of the University of Helsinki, measured the levels of antioxidants, including vitamin C, in the blood of ten volunteers, all non-smokers. Antioxidants are needed to prevent damage by highly-active oxygen radicals produced in the body by normal metabolic processes.

They then made the same measurements after the volunteers had spent half an hour in a room used by smokers. They found that the smoke caused a sharp fall in vitamin C levels, starting 90 minutes after exposure and lasting for at least six hours. The levels fell by a

third, they report in the American Heart Association journal *Circulation*. They also tested the capacity of all the blood's antioxidants, taken together, using a test called TRAP (total peroxyl radical trapping potential of serum). This fell by 31 per cent.

The conclusion is that exposure to secondhand smoke damages the antioxidant defences. This enables free radicals to combine with cholesterol in the blood to create an oxidised form of cholesterol more inclined to stick to the blood vessel walls, causing narrowing of the arteries and prompting heart attacks.

Epidemiological studies have shown that passive smoking may increase the risk of heart attacks by a quarter. This is surprising, because smoking 20 cigarettes a day roughly doubles the risk of a heart attack, and passive

smoking is equivalent to less than one cigarette a day.

The implication is that if the epidemiology can be relied upon, there must be an effect triggered by even minute exposures to tobacco smoke. The Finnish study identifies such an effect, and the two doctors say that a non-smoker may be more vulnerable to secondhand smoke than a smoker, whose system has adapted to cigarette smoke.

"We found that a short period of passive smoking changed cholesterol metabolism, favouring progression of atherosclerosis," Dr Kuusi says. "The cardiovascular system is extremely sensitive to the chemicals in environmental tobacco smoke."

Whether taking additional vitamin C in the form of supplements will prevent antioxidant depletion from secondhand smoke needs more study, he says.



John and Norma Major with their daughter, Elizabeth, and her boyfriend, Luke Salter, enjoying the Bank Holiday races at Huntingdon

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COMPAQ

Call for donors to have role in running charities

By ALEXANDRA FREAN, SOCIAL AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

CHARITIES should be run more like companies, with voting rights for donors and well-paid professionals replacing well-meaning but incompetent volunteer staff, a right-wing think-tank says.

A report for the Bow Group by Guy Strafford, a management consultant, argues that charities will lose donations and public confidence unless they become more efficient and more accountable. He also believes that the sector could benefit from a spate of mergers and takeovers to reduce competition for scarce resources between organisations with similar aims.

There is a question of why there are so many cancer charities and why there are so many animal charities," he says. "There seems to be a great deal of overlap." His comments follow a call from the Cancer Research Campaign for 600 cancer charities to pool resources.

The report, *What Gets Measured Gets Done*, says that donors should be given the right to vote on a charity's trustees in proportion to the size of their donations. It also says that unpaid charity workers can often do as much

harms as good: "Volunteers can be hard to hold to account they often have their own agendas and they can be difficult to manage." It recommends that volunteers might instead donate earnings from overtime. The money could then be used on paying "high wages to competent, motivated staff".

There are more than 180,000 charities in England and Wales, with an estimated income of £18 billion. Mr Strafford recommends an expanded Charity Commission, renamed Ofchar, financed by a levy on charities.

Last month the Public Accounts Committee said that one third of charities had failed to provide annual accounts in 1996. A new watchdog, the Accrediting Bureau for Fundraising Organisations, is to work alongside the commission to monitor accounting and management.

Margaret Bolton, of the National Council for Voluntary Organisations, said that charities were already strictly regulated, but accepted that the public was concerned about increasing competition between charities in the same areas of activity.

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French meat cancer alert

By Ben Macintyre

A TOP environmental group yesterday called on the French Government to ban the incineration of rubbish after discovering dangerous levels of cancer-inducing dioxin in meat.

The National Centre for Independent Information on Waste said that laboratory tests had found high levels of dioxin contamination in veal, minced beef and steaks bought from five Paris supermarkets.

Burial waste enters the food chain when it falls on to pastures and is absorbed into the fatty tissue of dairy and beef herds. France has 300 rubbish-burning plants, the highest concentration of incinerators in Europe.

In February, health inspectors ordered the closure of three incinerators in northern France after high levels of dioxin were found in dairy cows.

Official figures, cited in the environmental report, predict that between 1,800 and 5,200 people will die every year in France from cancer caused by dioxin.

A study by the French Environment Ministry last month found that most French incinerators emit levels of dioxin well above the authorised limit. Only six plants registered the European norm of 0.1 nanograms of dioxin per square metre.

Gaullists want party fund laws overhauled

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN PARIS

THE French State may be dangerously undermined unless laws governing the financing of politics are reformed, the conservative Gaullists' leader said yesterday in the midst of the latest party funding corruption scandal.

"Any government that does not create the right legal conditions to make the existing system of public financing better organised risks contributing to the dismantling of the state," said Philippe Séguin, leader of the Gaullist RPR.

His warning came as his party, which was founded by President Chirac, fought allegations that hundreds of its supporters were given fake jobs on the payroll of Paris city hall when M Chirac was Mayor.

The system of party financing was reformed in 1994 after a wave of scandals over alleged kickbacks from public contracts which tarnished the Socialists and contributed to their electoral defeat in 1993.

But with the boot on the other foot, M Séguin said that allegations relating to the past must be put into perspective. "I hope that one is not judged today on the facts of yesterday, or the day before that, forgetting what were the criteria of yesterday," M Séguin said.

ist leader and the Paris Mayor at the centre of the "fake jobs" controversy, last night rejected the damaging allegations as a political effort to smear his office.

Last week the city's former personnel director, Georges Quémar, claimed that under M Chirac and M Tiberi, then the Deputy Mayor, as many as 300 people were collecting salaries for jobs that were non-existent. "How much faith can be put in M Quémar, who was sentenced to two years in prison, with 18 months suspended, for influence peddling? As a witness on moral matters, one could find better," M Tiberi said.

M Chirac's Socialist foes have sought to capitalise on the scandal, demanding an investigation into the activities of Paris city hall. But Lionel Jospin, the Prime Minister, faced accusations in the National Assembly last week that he had been paid a salary by the Foreign Ministry between 1993 and 1997 when he was working full-time for the Socialist Party.

"M Jospin is telling us that he knows nothing about tales of public financing," Nicolas Sarkozy, the secretary-general of the Gaullists, asked last weekend with undisguised incredulity.



The Briksdal Glacier, part of Europe's largest ice-cap, which is expanding at the rate of 7in a day because of increased snowfall

Expanding Norway glaciers defy logic of global warming

FROM ANDREW GLASSE IN OSLO

NORWAY'S glaciers are growing, despite global warming, at a rate not seen since the early 18th century.

Europe's largest ice-cap, the Jostedalbreen Glacier in the mountains northeast of Bergen, has been expanding since the beginning of the 1980s. One major arm, the Briksdal Glacier, has been extending an average of 7in a day.

This seems to fly in the face of the global warming theory, which says that ice-caps are melting and sea levels rising as the temperature of the atmosphere increases.

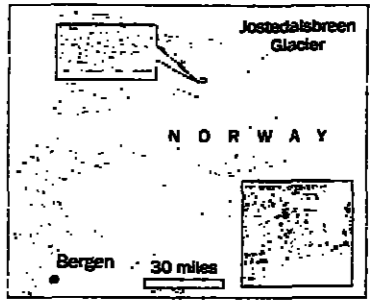
The areas of glaciers in the Alps have been halved over the past 150 years, and the reason for the recent expansion of the ice-caps in Norway lies in the amount of rain and snow over the current period.

The Jostedalbreen Glacier, measuring 190 square miles, is big enough to sustain at least 20 individually named arms extending outwards like tentacles from the central ice-cap. Its growth is purely a matter of the addition of snow exceeding the loss due to melting.

The weather over the past 20 years in this part of Northern Europe has been beneficial for glacier growth because warm air from the Atlantic Ocean has been meeting cold continental air from Siberia over the coast of Norway. This has meant cool, cloudy summers and mild winters with masses of snow.

Weather fronts crossing the inland mountains have resulted in extra-large snowfalls.

This weight, converting to ice as it is pressed downwards, has forced the



outer tongues further and further down the valleys.

The ice seen at the ends of the glaciers is, therefore, ancient snow that is being pressed out by the snowfalls of recent years. Records show that similar conditions have not existed in Norway since the early 18th century.

If current conditions continue, the tongues of the Jostedalbreen Glacier, such as Briksdal, will have extended by about two miles over the next 50 years. In a sense, therefore, global warming and growth of glaciers can even be said to go hand in hand.

Norway's glaciers are a popular tourist attraction and, unlike many in the district, the Briksdal is easy to reach. The nearby Fjaerland Glacier Museum shows how these huge structures function. They are often a translucent pale blue in colour, only turning a dirty grey at the edges where air gets between the ice particles.

Despite notices warning spectators to keep their distance, visitors are regularly injured and sometimes killed when large blocks break off in the summer months.

Pasta's champions fight back as fast foods conquer Italy

FROM RICHARD OWEN IN ROME

THE Italian Government is launching a campaign to make Italians healthier by reviving the "Mediterranean diet", which it says is giving way to an unhealthy consumption of frozen dinners, fast-food snacks and fatty, sugary "convenience foods".

But as ministers extolled pasta, tomatoes and balsamic vinegar, Italian nutritionists said the vaunted Mediterranean diet was a myth.

Rosy Bindi, the Health Minister in the centre-left Government of Professor Romano Prodi, said her aim was to reduce deaths from diet-related illnesses, such as cardiovascular disease, by 10 per cent by 2000. She urged Italians to smoke less - and drink alcohol only with meals. She

called for a return to healthy eating, saying Italy had a growing obesity problem because of under-consumption of traditional food such as pasta and over-consumption of fats, salt and sugar.

Paolo Sorcinelli, a leading food writer, agreed that Italy was giving way to a fast-food culture, with housewives resorting to frozen foods and microwave TV dinners.

The Mediterranean diet, based on olive oil, fresh fruit and vegetables, pasta and red wine, was fashionable in the Western world, but the picture of bucolic abundance it conjured up no longer reflected Italian reality "and probably never did". He said it was only at the beginning of the 1970s that all Italians achieved the

daily consumption of 3,000 calories "considered by the UN Food and Agriculture Organisation to be the minimum intake for human well-being".

Signor Sorcinelli said the myth of the healthy peasant diet was "probably never as well founded as people would have us believe". It was true that in the 1950s and 1960s thousands of poor southern Italians migrated north in search of work, but their cuisine was basic, and they soon turned to supermarket convenience foods when they prospered. Before post-war economic development, he said, "most Italian country dwellers were very poor, and many suffered from malnutrition."

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Honesty joins the casualties of Kosovo

FROM TOM WALKER AT THE KOMORAN CHECKPOINT, KOSOVO

THE Kosovo Liberation Army is undaunted by the current Serb onslaught against its strongholds in western Kosovo, and sources close to the guerrilla movement said yesterday that its ranks and its weaponry were both swelling, and that its fighters were closing in on Pristina, the capital.

Claims that the KLA has 30,000 members and is receiving 500 weapons across the Albanian border daily have to be treated with caution, but nonetheless characterise an optimism missing among Serb officials.

With the media barred from entering most of the Decane region, it is impossible to judge how successful the Serbs have been in rooting out the KLA cells. In the absence of hard information, classic Balkan wartime propaganda and outright lies are spreading like wildfire.

For their part, the Serbs allege that their women and daughters have been raped by KLA guerrillas in the burning villages now besieged by special police units. They have also said that the KLA has a new policy of intimidating and robbing journalists and that soon it will begin to kill correspondents found in its territory.

On the other side of the misinformation battle, the ethnic Albanian media machine still has the habit of multiplying favourable figures by ten and, after KLA fighters forced a helicopter to crash last week, is now claiming that they could have brought down a Yugoslav army MIG fighter; it seems certain it crashed because of a technical problem.

Serb police, isolated at many checkpoints, find it hard to believe that foreign journalists are allowed to drive through KLA territory unopposed, while their own convoys are almost bound to come under fire. "You could make a film for us of where they are, that would help us," said a policeman investigating a BBC camera for evidence of a KLA-Western media conspiracy.

Czech towns put Gypsies into 'ghetto'

Segregation of Romanies may foster a new migration, writes Roger Boyes

CZECH townships have begun to fence in noisy, troublesome residents, creating virtual ghettos for Romanies who are regarded by the authorities as the biggest nuisance.

The move against Gypsies, under way in Usti and Pilsen, may well drive more Romanies to seek asylum in Britain.

The action is part of a more general wave of national chauvinism in Central Europe. In Hungary, the centre-right Civic Party emerged as the winner of general elections on a slogan of "Hungary First". It may be dependent in government on the support of the far-right Justice and Life Party, which has stirred up anti-Semitism and anti-foreigner sentiment.

In the Czech Republic last week, youths attacked a McDonald's restaurant and in western Poland there have been anti-EU demonstrations prompted by fears that Germans will soon be allowed to buy land.

Central Europe has had a large Romany community and there have been persistent flare-ups with local inhabitants. The Czechs, however, created a special problem for themselves after divorcing from Slovakia in 1993. About 100,000 Romanies were de-

clared to be Slovaks, although most had been born on Czech territory. Now, to become a Czech citizen, a Romany has to meet several difficult conditions, including proof of registered residency and a crime-free record.

Living in limbo on the fringes of Czech cities, they are vulnerable to attacks from skinheads — police rarely intervene — and official negligence. This has prompted thousands to seek refuge in Canada and Britain.

Now Usti and Pilsen have gone a step further. In Usti, on the banks of the Elbe, the authorities have decided to build two 12ft-high walls around decaying apartment buildings which house 39 Gypsy families. Local officials say this does not amount to a ghetto, but there will in fact be a third fence and, as another building also acts as a barrier,

the Gypsies will in effect live in a closed compound. Private security guards are to patrol the area round the clock.

The official reason is that no rent is being paid on the city-owned apartments and rubbish is being thrown on the streets. Neighbours complain of singing and drunken arguments at night. But the cost of the fencing would certainly cover the outstanding rent for years to come.

In Pilsen, Gypsies are to be housed in ten portable cabins surrounded by a fence on the outskirts of the city. There will be a police station inside the compound and wardens will supervise the cabins.

"This is pure racist segregation," says Dimitrina Petrova, executive director of the European Roma Rights Centre in Budapest. "It is totally unacceptable in a civilised democracy."

It takes very little to spur a westward migration of Gypsies. Last autumn a Czech television documentary about Canada prompted more than 600 of them to set off for North America: several hundred made for Britain after a similar report suggesting they could expect generous social assistance.

Tibor Fischer, page 20



Gypsies could be on the move again as a fresh wave of national chauvinism sweeps Central Europe. Thousands are preparing to seek refuge in the West

WORLD SUMMARY

Immigrant smugglers imprisoned

Brussels: A gang of nine that tried to smuggle 120 people into Britain through Belgium were jailed for up to five years. Only half of the illegal immigrants have been caught. The immigrants — from Sri Lanka, Sudan, Ethiopia, Albania and Armenia — each paid the smuggler gang up to £7,000, the court in Bruges was told. (Reuters)

Suspect held

Amman: A man suspected of 12 murders, including an Iraqi diplomat and his wife, was held and another killed himself in an army raid led by Prince Abdullah, son of King Hussein of Jordan. (AP)

'Dirty war' trial

Madrid: José Barrionuevo, the former Interior Minister, and 11 others went on trial, accused of involvement in a 1983 kidnapping allegedly linked to a "dirty war" against Basque separatists. (AP)

Abkhazia offer

Gaguda: Georgia's President Shevardnadze sought to avoid an all-out war by offering breakaway Abkhazia the status of a state within a federation. The offer was conditional on a ceasefire. (AFP)

Boxers 'buried'

Seoul: A boxing coach was charged with "acts of violence" for burying five students up to their necks after losing a tournament, police said. The punishment took place in a school's grounds. (Reuters)

Students beaten

Tehran: Hardline Iranian militants wielding sticks, stones and chains broke up a pro-democracy rally of about 2,000 students here. At least 20 people were injured, including two women. (AP)

Law has teeth

Hanau: A German motorist whose car was wrecked by a beaver, which felled a tree as the vehicle passed by, has lost a claim for damages. A court here ruled the environment took priority. (AFP)

Kohl tries to allay US Jews' fears

BY ROGER BOYES

HELMUT KOHL, the German Chancellor, is attempting to reassure American Jews that his united Germany poses no threat and that Jewish interests would be taken into account in the relationship between Bonn and Washington.

The comments, made in a weekend speech to students and staff at Brandeis University near Boston, came against a backdrop of Jewish concern about German commercial expansion in the United States. Many American Jews — especially those of the older generation — have for years boycotted the purchase of Mercedes, Volkswagen or Porsche cars as well as Bayer Aspirin, Braun shavers and other typical German products. The

proposed merger of Daimler-Benz with Chrysler has reopened the debate.

Shareholders at Chrysler's annual general meeting in Michigan protested against merging with a company that once employed slave labour and which was part of Hitler's war machine. "If this merger goes through, it will be like *Deutschland Uber Alles* all over again," one Holocaust survivor told the meeting.

As German companies increasingly cross the Atlantic — the latest rumour is of a Chase Manhattan and Deutsche Bank merger — so this resentment is likely to increase. Deutsche Bank, for example, profited from the forced sale of Jewish property during the Nazi years.

Herr Kohl was speaking at an award ceremony, in which he was given an

honorary doctorate and was praised for his contribution to improving Germany's ties with the Jewish community. But it seems unlikely that his comments will change the minds of some American consumers.

Cynthia Ozick, the novelist, has gone on record as saying that she will buy neither a Mercedes nor a Chrysler. "It is irrational," she concedes, "but I have to make some marker in my life". Abe Foxman, director of the Anti-Defamation League, grew up in German-occupied Lithuania and refuses to buy a Mercedes. He is unsure whether this personal boycott should now stretch to Chrysler. "It's an emotional matter."

Leading article, page 21

Bonn seeks British aid in nuclear waste crisis

Bonn: Germany yesterday called on Britain and France to help it out of a growing political crisis on nuclear waste disposal which could trip up the Government only months before general elections (Roger Boyes writes).

Angela Merkel, the Environment Minister, facing demands for her resignation yesterday, set out a ten-point safety code to reassure voters after reports of waste shipments to Britain and France with excessive radiation levels. Frau Merkel's ten-point

programme would ensure that information about breaches of radiation guidelines would reach Bonn quickly.

Britain and France are to be asked to inform the Germans as soon as radiation levels exceed norms, said Frau Merkel. Franco-German talks are to be held today and talks with British officials will be held soon afterwards.

Amsterdam: Greenpeace called here for a ban on nuclear waste shipments because the risks were "simply too high". (AP)

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Hong Kong victors demand democracy

FROM JAMES PRINGLE IN HONG KONG

MARTIN LEE, Hong Kong's leading democrat and critic of the Chinese Communist leadership, won his place yesterday on the former British territory's first elected legislature under Beijing's rule, and he called for full democracy in Hong Kong by 2000.

The barrister, who is head of the Democratic Party and was unceremoniously ousted from the Legislative Council last July 1, when Britain returned Hong Kong to China, won a seat in the new 60-member council in an election that gave an inbuilt advantage to pro-Beijing candidates.

He had sworn to return to the legislature at the time he and his allies were forced from the pre-handover assembly. He has now made good on his promise. Speaking after his victory, Mr Lee, 59, said Hong Kong people knew the elections had been rigged against the Democratic Party, but they had used their first chance to speak since last year's handover to send a signal to the Beijing leadership.

"The message to me is loud and clear," he said. "Hong Kong people want and deserve

democracy, and I think it would be in the interests of the Chinese leaders in Beijing to take heed of this strong message and allow us in Hong Kong to establish full democracy." He said that the next legislative elections in 2000 should be decided on the basis of full democracy.

Mr Lee, in uncompromising mood, said that if Tung Chee-hwa, the Beijing-appointed Chief Executive of Hong Kong, went against this strong message, he would be taking a dangerous course. "We are committed to bringing democracy to Hong Kong and this is what we will pursue," he said. The Chief Executive should be elected by democratic vote by 2002 - that is, the successor to Mr Tung, Mr Lee noted.

He also said he believed that this week's election, in which pro-democracy candidates won more than 50 per cent of the popular vote, was also a small step for China towards democracy.

Diplomats and analysts said that the victory of Mr Lee's Democrats and allied parties, whose members include pro-democracy legislators such as Emily Lau and



Lee yesterday sent a warning to Beijing

Christine Loh, who have together won 21 seats overall, was bad news for Beijing and Mr Tung.

"It is likely to lead to lively debate in the chamber, and pointed questions for Mr Tung on matters of concern for Hong Kong people's livelihood instead of the tame ones he has had from an assembly of like-minded individuals," said one observer.

Analysts say that members from the three pro-Beijing parties would dominate the final 60-seat council because

the other 40 seats were decided not by universal suffrage but by a complex system that benefits the pro-Beijing candidates.

China, which once branded Mr Lee a subversive, is wrestling with internal problems of its own from huge unemployment, and Mr Tung is also dealing with issues stemming from the East Asian economic crisis, such as Hong Kong's own flagging economy, with unemployment at a 14-year record.

Analysts said that the 53 per cent turnout in the election had demonstrated beyond doubt that Hong Kong people had become politicised, and the last British Governor, Chris Patten, had undoubtedly played a role in this by his efforts to expand the popular franchise and encourage spirited political debate.

Mr Tung professed he was gladdened by the size of the turnout. He needed such a turnout to demonstrate that Hong Kong was moving ahead politically. But he was perhaps shocked by the size of the turnout, which was 20 per cent more than had been predicted.

Leading article, page 21



Emily Lau, leader of the Frontier Party, celebrates her victory in the Hong Kong Legislative Council election. Pro-democracy parties gained 21 seats overall

India's middle classes boil over

By CHRISTOPHER THOMAS IN DELHI

INDIA'S small but hugely privileged middle classes are on the point of rioting - one mob has already been on the rampage in Delhi - as the northern plains burn in exceptionally high temperatures.

Water and electricity shortages have claimed many lives, mostly of those too poor to survive in temperatures up to 119F (48C).

The middle classes are articulating the despair felt generally, with daily protests in half a dozen states that cannot keep the fans running or the water flowing.

Power company officials have been surrounded by crowds and berated, and last week a heat-exhausted mob went on a bout of stone-throwing in south Delhi, targeting passing cars for want of something valuable to wreck.

As the temperatures soared yesterday, there were lengthy power failures in parts of the capital and beyond. That, in turn, prevented the pumping of water.

Officials said 56 people died of the heat yesterday, bringing the national toll to 134. According to one account, the corpses of people who had succumbed to the heat were left lying in railway stations and on the sides of streets in several towns in the northern state of Uttar Pradesh.

There were reports of large crowds of demonstrators gathering in many cities, most of them from middle-class neighbourhoods that had gone for up to three days without power or water supplies.

One English-language newspaper in Delhi, reflecting middle-class impatience, warned its readers in a headline: "Citizens threaten to resort to violence."

Scraps of change leave Indonesia hungry for reform



Muhart Pakpahan yesterday with his family and supporters on the eve of his possible release from jail

INDONESIA'S new President went on national television for the third time in five days last night, seeking to reassure his people that reform is on the way.

Dr Jusuf Habibie offered a complete overhaul of the political and legal systems, and three times pledged an end to corruption, collusion and nepotism. He added, however, that all change must be achieved under the 1945 Constitution.

"We are a nation that relies on lawfulness," he said, in an effort to restore confidence among the thousands who are still reliving the horrors of the rioting and looting. He said he had been moved by the people's self-control and gave warning that it would continue to be necessary if anarchy were to be avoided.

President Habibie has started the healing process, but failed to set a new election date, David Watts writes

Despite pressure from all sides, however, he set no new date for elections. The references to the Constitution will be seen as a signal that he intends to stay in office for his full term, until 2003.

But there were signs of change. In an effort to start the process of healing, the army announced that 19 soldiers had been found responsible for the murder of four students at Trisakti University. There was also a commitment to release the first of 200 political prisoners.

Outside the dirty white walls of Cipinang prison in Jakarta's poor eastern suburbs, a cheer went up from

hundreds of demonstrators who had waited eight hours in the blistering sun as a former assembly member announced an agreement with the Government to free political prisoners selectively.

Sri Bintang Pamungkas was jailed last year for almost three years for making a joke about former President Suharto. Alongside him was Muhart Pakpahan, a trade union leader, who is coming to the end of a four-year jail term for inciting a riot. The two men disappeared inside the prison again, but both are expected to leave jail today.

"I want Sri Bintang out. He's a real hero. He was

shouts of "Freedom for Xanana", they symbolised the extraordinarily rapid change that has come over Indonesian society in the past ten days. Not long ago they would have found themselves inside with their jailed hero or, even worse, would have just disappeared for holding such demonstrations.

There are now two main schools of thought on democratisation. One calls for a special session of the National People's Consultative Assembly to vote on a new president immediately. The other believes there should be a complete revision of electoral laws in preparation for general elections to a new assembly. But none of the reform scenarios on offer seems likely to be fast enough to save Indonesia from disaster.

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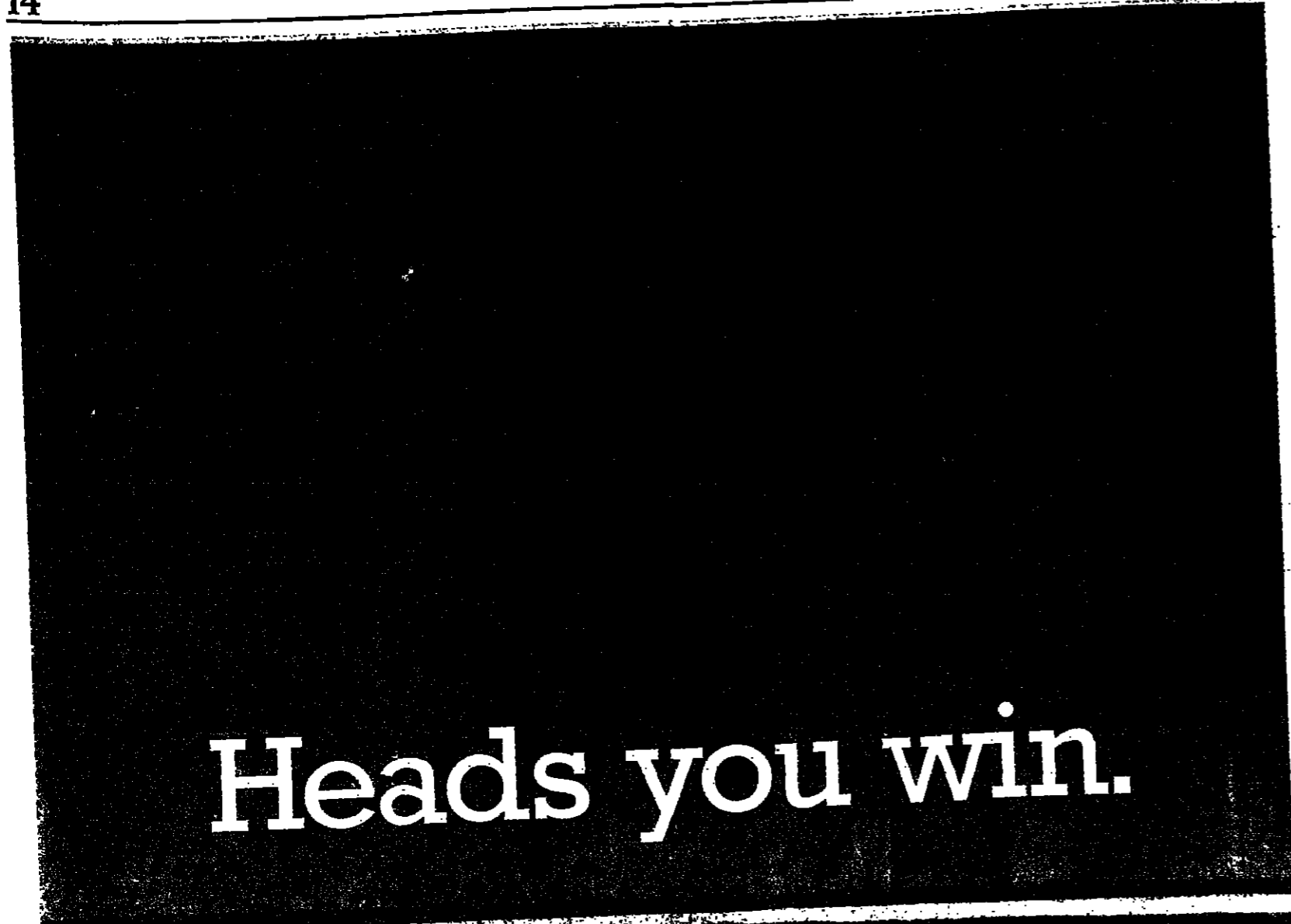
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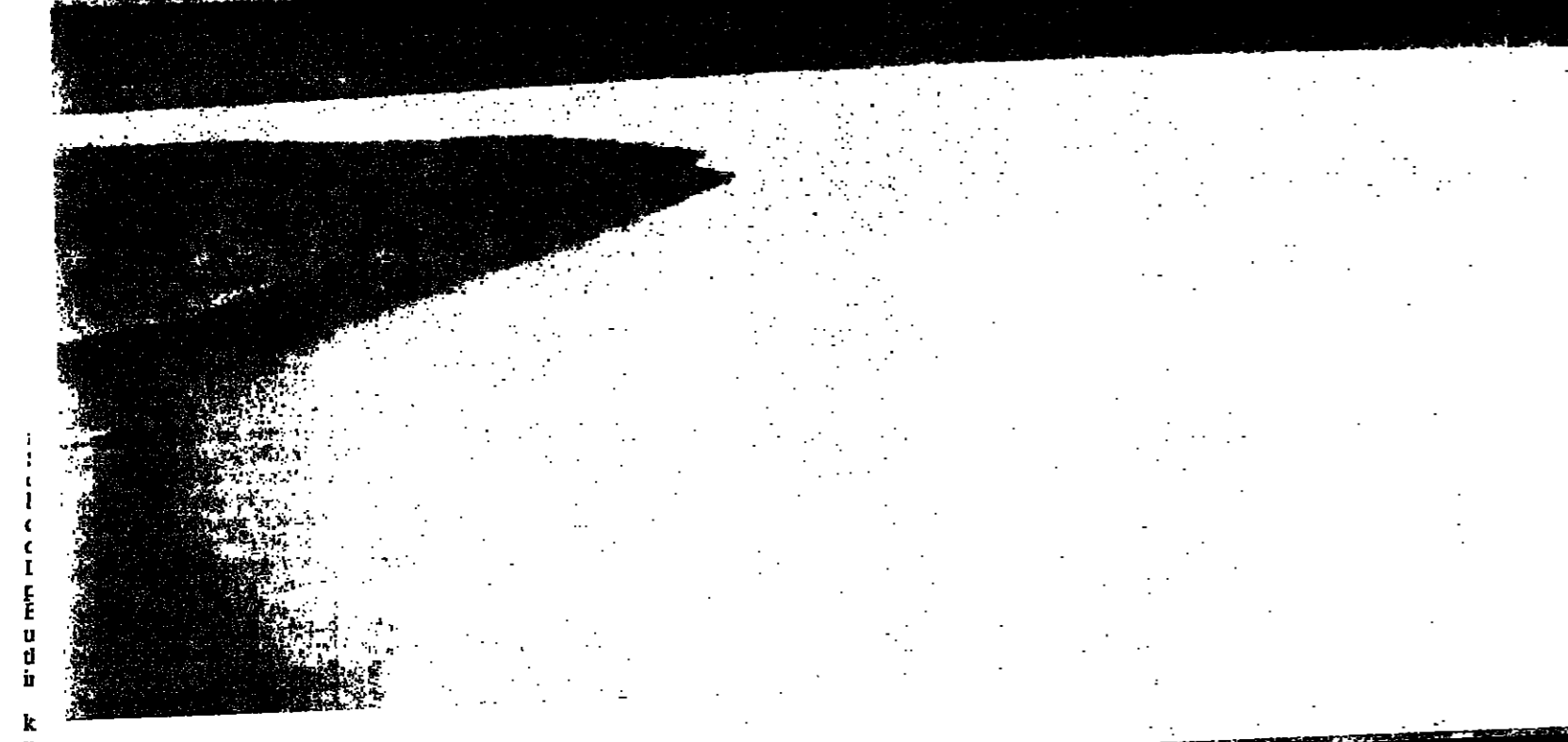
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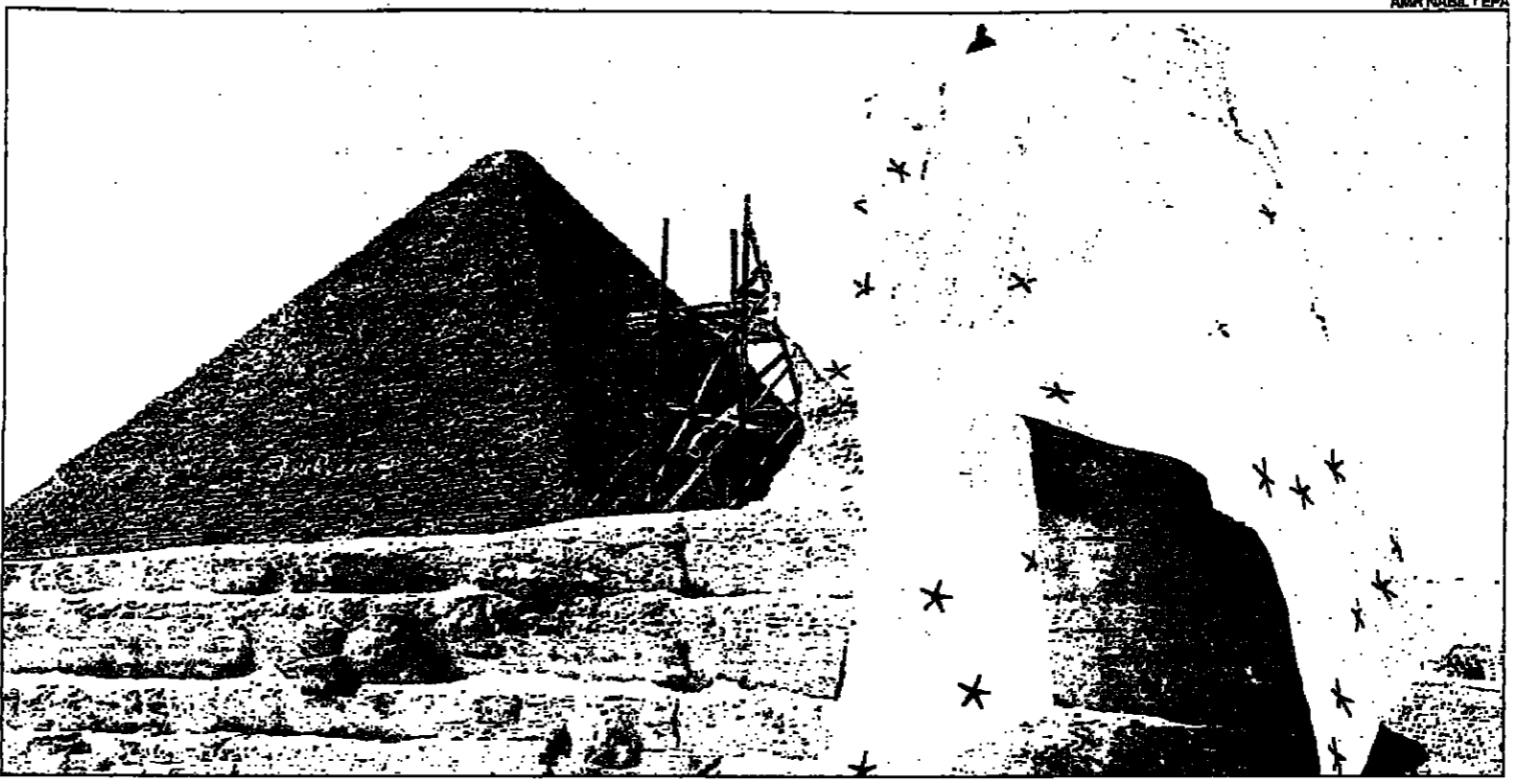
Sphinx sees the light after \$3m face-lift

BY CHRISTOPHER WALKER, MIDDLE EAST CORRESPONDENT

EGYPT last night celebrated the completion of a ten-year programme to restore the 4,500-year-old Sphinx, the ancient Egyptian symbol of royalty, at a cost of \$3 million (£1.8 million). President Mubarak hosted a lavish celebration at the Pyramids at Giza, where the story of the man-cat was told in a sound-and-light show and officials expressed hopes that the restoration will help to lure back tourists driven away by recent outrages by Islamic militants.

Zahi Hawass, the chief government archaeologist for the Sphinx and Great Pyramids, said that the renovation had used 12,244 white limestone blocks — some weighing up to 1,320lb — to shore up the beast's paws, legs and stomach. "The Sphinx is smiling again because he is a healthy man," he said. The face of the lion is believed to have been modelled on that of its builder, Pharaoh Chephren. Its purpose has puzzled experts for centuries and its future was under risk from the ravages of the 20th century. The one thing the experts have agreed on is that the guardian of the Pyramids' plateau has deteriorated more in the past 50 years than in the previous 50 centuries. The alarm bells began to ring in earnest in February 1988, when a 600lb block dropped mysteriously from

the Sphinx's shoulder and demonstrated the political sensitivity of the statue by prompting the dismissal of Dr Ahmad Kadry, then chairman of the Egyptian Antiquities Association. Only after his death did an official report exonerate him. The Sphinx spent much of its life buried up to its neck in sand, protected from the elements. Since being uncovered in 1926, it has repeatedly fallen prey to wind, water and a number of badly botched attempts to save it. The present well-run restoration programme began ten years ago, after it was discovered that other recent restoration work was faulty. Probably one of the most



The restored Sphinx before it was unveiled by President Mubarak. Officials hope it will lure back tourists driven away by Islamist terrorism

damaging efforts to restore the figure carved from 50 million-year-old rock was in 1972, when scientists injected a chemical into its chest to harden the stone. The treatment flaked, taking with it

some of the mother rock that it was designed to save. Omar Arini, an archaeological chemist, summed up the main problem facing the restorers: "It is not just an old building that you are going to

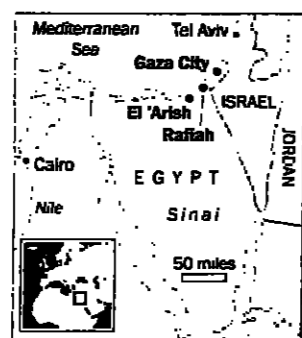
refurbish and renovate. Basically you are dealing with a lousy rock that has been a lousy rock forever." Despite the decade of complex archaeological work, the Sphinx does not look as if it

were new. It is still missing its beard, parts of which are in the British and Egyptian museums, and the nose that was lost in the 14th century. Much of the recent damage has been blamed on water from nearby

drainage systems. Repeated efforts to arrest the decay have failed, prompting suggestions for more drastic remedies, such as covering the whole statue in sand again or encasing it in glass.

Arabs stockpiling Gaza arms, says top Israeli source

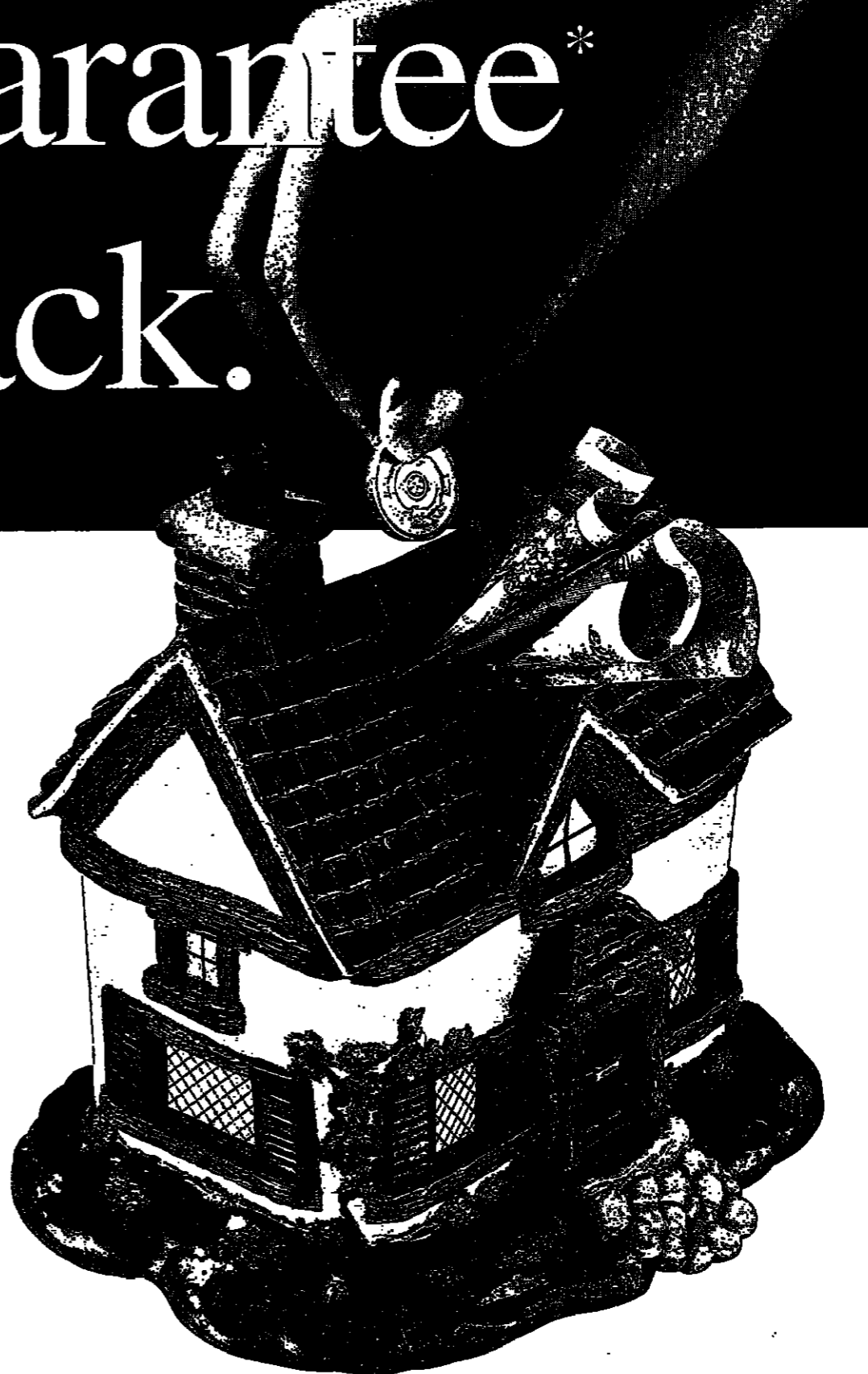
FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN JERUSALEM



THE Palestinian Authority is illegally stockpiling weapons that are either smuggled from the Egyptian-controlled Sinai through a network of tunnels or manufactured in secret Gaza workshops, a leading Israeli military source said yesterday. "They have been smuggling all sorts of weapons through the tunnels," he told *The Jerusalem Post*. "They would be smuggling tanks, too, if they could fit them through the tunnels." The intelligence report came amid predictions from Israeli, Arab and Western experts that widespread Israeli-Palestinian violence will erupt soon if the 15-month deadline in the 1993 Oslo peace accords is not resolved swiftly. Moshe Katzav, the Israeli Deputy Prime Minister, said yesterday that the right-wing Israeli Cabinet of Benjamin Netanyahu was united in rejecting the proposal of a new 13 per cent withdrawal in the West Bank suggested by the United States as a blueprint for rescuing the peace talks. "There are no disagreements in the Government on this matter," he added. The military source refused to specify what the Israeli Army knows has already been

smuggled through the six unauthorised tunnels connecting the Sinai with parts of the Gaza Strip, which is now under the control of Yassir Arafat, the President of the Palestinian Authority (PA). He said Israeli commanders were acting on the assumption that "virtually any weapon the PA can order" that can fit into the tunnels is now being transported into Gaza. Diplomats in Tel Aviv believe this is being financed by Arab countries angered by the Israeli Government's settlement policies. The unnamed source, who is understood to be close to Yitzhak Mordechai, the Israeli Defence Minister, said that the illegal weapons that are now being acquired by the Palestinians could include anything from Katyusha rockets to Stinger shoulder-fired anti-aircraft missiles and anti-tank weapons.

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Margaret Mokoena with her daughter, Dorah, and Richard Collin of Moorfields Eye Hospital

Ray of light in a life of darkness

Cradling her daughter close to her breast, Margaret Mokoena coos softly and tries to soothe away the agony that can still torture four-year-old Dorah. The pain does not visit the child so often now; her mother believes that at last her anguished prayers are being answered.

Margaret strokes her daughter's head until Dorah drifts off to sleep in a hospital room thousands of miles from home. Staff come and go but she hardly notices — all her attention is fixed on the little girl who has borne so much and must endure still more.

Life for Margaret and Dorah has always been cruel. All too often their shack in a South African squatter camp has echoed to the screams of a mother abused by the violent father of her child.

Then came the night three years ago when fire engulfed their home, leaving Dorah trapped in a world of shadows and pain — all but blind, horribly disfigured and incapable of speech. Intense heat destroyed her hands and face. Doctors and nurses who treated the little girl on admission to hospital doubted that she would, or even should, survive.

By last year South African surgeons had concluded that the only way to control her pain would be to remove her eyes.

Five months ago *The Times* appealed for help to save a South African child's eyes. Now Dorah Mokoena has been treated in a London hospital. Report by Bill Frost

optimistic. "I am delighted with Dorah's progress. She is calm and seems much happier," he says.

Mr Collin, a founder member of the European Society of Ophthalmic Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery, wanted first to control the suffering Dorah endured when her dressings were changed. Her eyelids had been destroyed in the blaze and to rebuild the lids he used skin from elsewhere on her body and made a curtain over the eyes.

The operation was successful but, deprived of the ability to differentiate between light and darkness, Dorah became unsettled and tearful. Margaret was frightened, too — had the journey to Britain been for nothing? But in the days that followed Dorah became used to darkness. Her tears stopped and she grew warm and demonstrative once more: clutching her mother's neck and gurgling happily. A second operation has since restored her dim picture of the world.

The eyes are now protected with a curtain of skin and the pain has decreased," says Mr Collin. "I have cut small 'peepholes' over each eye and one in the middle of the flap of skin attached during the operation. Dorah is again able to differentiate between light and darkness."

Margaret's love for her daughter is profound and

plainly unconditional. Others faced with the care of a child so horribly burnt and apparently unaware of her surroundings might have welcomed the decision by a South African judge to make the little girl a ward of court and put her up for adoption.

Poor, alone and lacking confidence, Margaret allowed the State to take away her child. But when eventually reunited, Margaret vowed never to be parted from her daughter again.

They clung to each other during the long flight to London from Johannesburg, oblivious to the stares of passengers shocked by Dorah's disfigurement.

Margaret was too pre-occupied to notice them and too ingenuous to believe others capable of casual cruelty.

Her confidence in divine providence is unshakable, even though life has been hard. She grew up in a dysfunctional home, with a drunken father who abused her mother so badly that she walked out seven years ago when Margaret was 18. She has not heard from her since.

Her father's other wife stabbed him in the chest a year ago — he died of his wounds. Margaret was raised mainly by her frail grandmother, Violet, on whose monthly state pension of 470 rands (£53) the family survived. If Margaret made any

money by tilling the maize fields, the men in her family spent her wages on drink.

Dorah's father — who has shown no interest in the child since the fire — would often beat Margaret. She has burn scars where he branded her with an iron.

The blaze that left Dorah so badly injured began when a candle fell from its holder. The cardboard used to insulate the hut quickly caught fire. Margaret was at a neighbour's home fetching water for Violet, who was ill. "I came back and flames were coming through the roof," she recalls with a shudder.

"My brother and I grabbed the mattress and pulled Dorah out. She was so badly hurt that I was scared to touch her."

Today Margaret's fear of holding Dorah close is gone. But whether the child will see again or speak is uncertain. There are doubts, too, over her powers of reason — given the extent of Dorah's injuries, can doctors be sure that she did not suffer some brain damage in the fire?

But for the moment, as Dorah convalesces before her return to South Africa, these are secondary considerations. Mr Collin has been moved by the courage and resilience of mother and daughter alike.

The prognosis looks good. The next stage will be to establish whether any real vision remains in the eyeballs. Electrical tests have shown that there are still nerve pathways from the back of the eyes to the brain. It may be possible to restore more of her sight.

"It will need an examination by plastic surgeons to determine whether we can make Dorah look a little better. That is in the future."

"For the moment we are delighted that a remarkable child so badly injured has been made a little happier. We must just keep hoping."

Margaret's fear of holding Dorah close has gone

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Relax and forget everything — except the Pill

There is a downside to spending long summer weekends lazing in the countryside — an unplanned pregnancy. But it isn't only warm weather and idyllic surroundings that turn a Mr Pooter into a Lord Byron. Women, it seems, frequently forget to pack the Pill when going away for a weekend and hope for the best when they discover that they have left the packet at home.

In his book *The Pill*, John Guillebaud, Professor of Reproductive Health at University College London, quotes faulty weekend packing as one of the causes of contraceptive failure. Professor Guillebaud prefers to prescribe the 28-day pill packet because a woman used to taking her pill daily is as unlikely to leave them behind as she is to forget her toothbrush. Pill-takers may face other hazards on a longer holiday if they fall victim to upset stomachs with vomiting or diarrhoea, or if the pill has an interaction with other medication.

A woman who fails to start the next pill packet on time is particularly likely to become pregnant. Ovaries become active again if a pill hasn't been taken for seven days. They escape from the suppressing effect of the contraception, and an egg may be released. Even if a pill has been forgotten during the middle of the cycle another should be

taken within 12 hours of the time when it should have been swallowed.

If the Pill is taken more than 12 hours late, another method of contraception should be used as well for seven days.

If one pill is missed at the beginning of a packet, the same applies. If more than one day has been missed, post-coital contraception — the popularly but inaccurately named morning-after Pill — is

MEDICINE CHEST DR THOMAS STUTTFORD

needed, together with a barrier method of contraception for seven days, and a pregnancy check at the end of the month. When pills are missed at the end of the packet, a new packet should be started at once and continued until it is finished.

Emergency contraception and post-coital contraception are the technical terms to describe the "morning-after Pill". This method is effective for three days (72 hours) after intercourse. A short course of a high-dose combined oestrogen/progesterone Pill — two tablets as soon as

possible followed by another two 12 hours later — usually prevents or delays ovulation. The preparation Schering PC4 is licensed for this use. Because ovulation is sometimes delayed, rather than prevented, other methods of contraception should be used for the rest of the cycle, and the woman should be checked three weeks after the incident.

Vomiting, rather than diarrhoea, is the main hazard to contraception facing women taking the Pill if they develop a stomach upset. The pill usually takes about three hours to leave the stomach and to be absorbed. If vomiting occurs within three hours the pill may be lost, but it is safe if another one can be taken and kept down within 12 hours. If not, and more than 12 hours passes without a retained pill, the same rules apply to the vomiting woman as to the forgetful one.

Professor Guillebaud is reassuring about diarrhoea without vomiting. So long as it is not of cholera-like severity, with visits to the loo every few minutes, the pill will be absorbed.

There is a long list of drugs that interfere with the Pill. Anti-infective drugs may be a problem, but Rifampicin is the one most likely to be a problem, and possibly some of the broad-spectrum antibiotics. One of these, Doxycycline, is sometimes

prescribed as an anti-malarial prophylaxis, but as it increases sensitivity to sun, it is not a popular choice for this role.

Many doctors, as well as patients, are confused by the intricacies of pill-taking once the standard routine has been broken. It is difficult to remember the answers to each

individual problem. I keep a copy of Professor Guillebaud's book beside me in the surgery. It is written so as to be easily understood by lay people and professionals.

● *The Pill and Other Forms of Hormonal Contraception*, by John Guillebaud (Fifth Edition 1997, OUP, £6.99).

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'I do it my way and I get things wrong'

Richard Whiteley is wilder than Middle England thinks. Interview by Moira Petty

Richard Whiteley can recall the precise moment he realised that he had made the transition from middle-aged TV presenter to cult figure. He was appearing at Leeds University in 1995 after *Countdown* had gone daily. "The girl students were fighting to try on my glasses and give me a drink of their beer. Then they'd shriek 'Oh, he's drunk from my glass!'"

peppered with terrible puns and delivered with the beseeching smile of an overgrown puppy". Some might not think this altogether flattering but Whiteley is immensely gratified. It is such intrinsigence in the face of fashion or criticism that has made him an effortless symbol of Post-Modern irony. He is a mixture of bouncy self-importance (on spotting Yorkshire pudding on the menu: "They knew we were coming!") and self-abasement. "If they advertise my job now - 'Host wanted for megared C4 show' - I'd never get through the audition. I do it my way and I get things wrong. I go hot and cold when I watch."

At the elite end of academia he cuts a similar swath: the Master and Fellows of his alma mater, Christ's College, Cambridge, are fans of what Whiteley describes with Luddite relish as a "low-tech parlor game". Few television icons have united such disparate viewing groups as the avuncular 54-year-old Whiteley during his 15½-year tenure at *Countdown*. Mothers at home with young children, students, 30 of them crowded round one set - everyone wants the student audience," he brags, and the retired, coming in from golf course or garden, are among the programme's four to five million daily viewers. Whiteley is to Middle England what the Gallaghers are to Britpop. We meet for lunch although Whiteley censures my first choice of restaurant as too fancy. "Not the kind of food you enjoy - things stuffed inside other things. And we're sensible people, aren't we?" he booms.

He arrives, a little florid after a delayed flight from Leeds, cracking gags and wearing his provincial-bank-manager-in-disco-mode apparel: bright jacket and heart-festooned tie. He is clutching Jonathan Coe's novel, *What a Carve Up!*, with its references to *Countdown* underlined, including the description of its host's "foolish introduction, the innocent abroad?" "I sometimes dumb down to make Carol sound good," he says. Carol Vorderman is the dominatrix at the *Countdown* numbers board with whom he engages in "banter" and against whose sharp tongue he inevitably comes off worse. "I'll say 'Isn't she great?', and she'll fling abuse back at me. I tell her 'Don't. The viewers don't like it.' If he can, he will get in first and direct the joke at himself; so it is no surprise when he volunteers that his relationships with women began apprehensively. During holidays from Giggleswick boarding school in the Dales, his mother used to drag him along to charity balls. "At 15 or 16 I was thin, scraggy, wore glasses and had no confidence. I was the only



Portrait of a game-show host as improbable sex symbol: Richard Whiteley, of C4's *Countdown*, unexpectedly became a father from an on-off relationship but has not married

person who never had a partner for the last 10 years. When he went up to Cambridge in 1962 things didn't improve. "I went through the whole of my time at Cambridge without - how do you describe it these days? - 'doing it' once there. There were ten males to every female student then. I was busy editing *Varsity* and there wasn't the imperative to do it." Also the penalties for being found with a girl in college rooms were severe. "One of the first stories I ran in *Varsity* was so and so who got sent down for sexual offences."

However, he didn't graduate (with a third, as he often tells *Countdown* viewers) until he was 29. "I was very sad for me. I wore a black tie on *Calendar* every day for a year but no one noticed. *Upstairs Downstairs* was on at the time and I cried at every episode. I liked the family atmosphere that Mrs Bridges created downstairs as the mother figure."

Did he feel sorry for poor put-upon maid Ruby? "I wasn't interested in Ruby. I liked the relationship between Hudson the butler and Lord Bellamy. I met Gordon Jackson, who played Hudson, at David Frost's party in 1982 just after *Countdown* had begun. It meant so much when he said he loved the programme."

Since his marriage there have been "relationships that have come and gone". Now he has what he calls "an association" with Kathryn Apanowicz, a Radio Leeds presenter and *Emeraldale* actress. "I like a reasonably structured way of living. I want my own space but I wouldn't rule out further commitment."

In May 1987, he unexpectedly became a father from an on-off relationship with the journalist and broadcaster Lesley Ebbetts. "We had a relationship, lost touch and then got back together. She's a very likeable and competent girl. But there was no question of our marrying or living together."

"I've been around for the whole of James's life although he lives in London. I'm on a learning curve as far as children are concerned. We have terrific times together. He comes to stay and we go away on holiday every year. He's a very sensible, good lad, thin, like I was at that age but sporty, unlike me. When I was at school my mother never had to wash my shorts."

He was christened John Richard Whiteley. His father, Kenneth, who died in 1995, was the third generation to

His cult status has been confirmed by a night out with Chris Evans

He had blonde curly hair, a lovely figure and people couldn't believe that an ugly bugger like me could get her. I don't know what she saw in me. But I was driving a Triumph Vitesse convertible at the time. They married a year after meeting but parted 18 months later. "The break-up

run the Thomas Whiteley textile mill, which was sold in the Sixties. Whiteley had one younger sister, Helen, and is still reeling from the shock of her death this spring aged 49. "Liver cancer was diagnosed last July and borne with great courage. She didn't look or act ill, she put on a show and a radiant smile."

"We record *Countdown* in advance and what caused me a lot of anguish was the thought that I might be appearing on TV as she was dying. That was in my mind as I said 'Hello' at the beginning of every programme we recorded for January, February and March. But her death came on the Friday at midnight. The script in our family was that I, two stone overweight, would go first. I feel terribly mortal. Helen used to give me hell regularly. I was too fat, my hair needed cut-

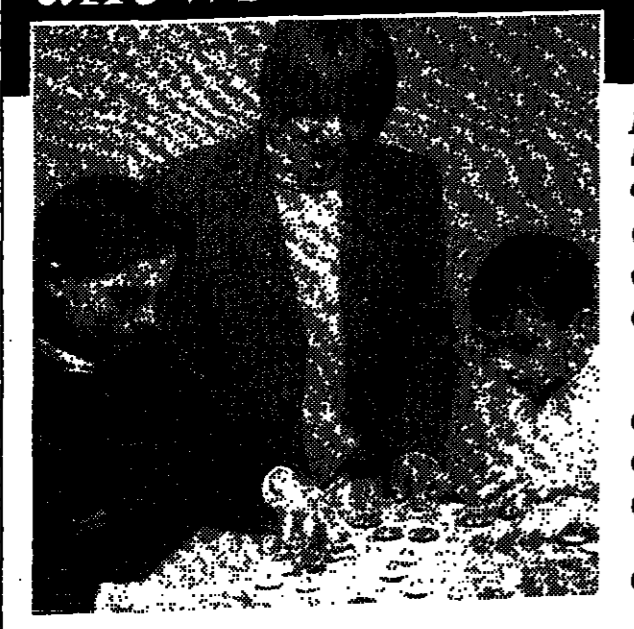
ting. Sisters are often the only people who'll tell you what you don't want to hear. For the first couple of weeks after her death it was as though she was on holiday. Now it's really beginning to hit me."

After a summer run on YTV, *Countdown* was chosen to launch C4 on November 2, 1992. Now the spin-off, *Celebrity Countdown*, fields the likes of Jo Brand, Jill Dando and Lord Steel of Aikwood. Famous fans include Lord King of Warnaby, who watched "even at the height of his powers at BA".

Football managers Ron Atkinson (formerly of Sheffield Wednesday) and Gordon Strachan (Coventry) "ring each other at 5pm to find out how the other did". The umpire Dickie Bird found pirated copies of *Countdown* being transmitted on Indian TV. "I turned on and the first face I saw were thou," he grumbled to Whiteley.

Indeed, Whiteley is popping up all over the place. Last week he had his head chopped off on C4's *TFI Friday*. His status has already been confirmed by the obligatory night out with Chris Evans. "He brought his whole menagerie on a minibus and we went on a tour of Leeds nightclubs." Had Whiteley enjoyed the sounds of trip hop and ambient dance? "Well, I didn't know the words but I've never seen light shows like it."

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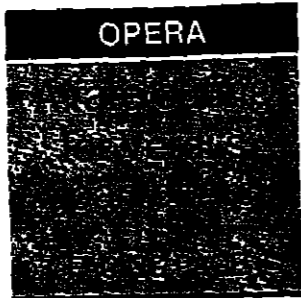
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Martyn Palmer talks to Richard Gere about his new thriller set in China, 'Red Corner'.

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Marriage of daring and imagination

Richard Morrison reports on how a buzzing Salisbury Festival is setting the standard for arts fests everywhere

A French acrobat abseils down England's tallest cathedral. A British Army garrison plays host to a famously anti-military play. A sleepy Wiltshire town rocks and rolls and revels for three weeks of eye-popping extravaganza.

This is the Salisbury Festival, which opened its 1998 programme on Saturday. In a gloomy arts climate, it is an astonishing success story. Since a sparky impresario called Helen Marriage took it over four years ago it has increased its audiences by 500 per cent, its ticket receipts from £44,000 to £300,000 and its turnover from £180,000 to £800,000.

These are dazzling statistics, but they do not capture the startling exuberance of it all. The new director came from a trendy London theatre background. Salisbury, by contrast, is a byword for tweedy conservatism. The convergence of the twin might have been disastrous. Instead, Marriage has wrought a miracle of modern British culture. Salisbury, at least in May, is chic and buzzing.

Last year she commissioned an outdoor opera involving 10,000 breeze-blocks. She had the rock guitarist Robert Fripp working in the cathedral with special-needs people. She mounted a show of Elisabeth Frink nude sculptures that created merry hell when resourceful local schoolgirls added luminous condoms to the relevant bits. And she had acrobat musicians playing 100ft up in the open air, suspended by a giant crane.

This year is equally wacky. A company of French "aerialists" aptly called Les Elastonautes opened the festival by swooping down, bungee-style, from the cathedral front. Flamboyant "wind sculptures" have been mount-

ed in the cathedral and its environs. More conventional offerings are not neglected: there's the premiere of a John Harle opera; Paul McCartney's oratorio *Standing Stone*; a cycle of Mystery Plays, dozens of rock, jazz and classical concerts. But the overriding impression is of freshness.

Marriage is not entirely out on her own. A bracing wind of change has swept over festivals in recent years. Not before time, perhaps. Some of the most famous were cocooned in a fatal smugness, narrow in programme content and audience base. Some still are. But others have risen to the challenge of involving the whole community in the fun without sacrificing standards or cutting-edge innovation. Norwich has changed beyond recognition under young Marcus Davey. Brighton is a sprawling, hit-or-miss affair, but it teems with ideas. Belfast last year had a truly world-class sweep under Sean Doran.

This new breed of festival director shares one philosophy: that people can be attracted by spectacular populist events, and then enticed to explore in greater depth. A case in point was last year's Cirque Baroque visit to the Salisbury Festival. Some 73 per cent of its audience had never before attended either the festival or the Salisbury Playhouse. Nearly a third of them booked for another Playhouse event within three months.

How are such results achieved? The answer is an old but nevertheless pertinent cliché: seize every chance to smash the barriers that stop people enjoying art. An example in Salisbury this year should be the National Theatre's touring production of *Oh! What A Lovely War*. Across the country this is

already winning new audiences in unexpected venues. But when it comes to Salisbury (June 9-13) there will be an additional twist: Joan Littlewood's First World War satire will be staged in Tidworth and Bulford Garrison, a huge military barracks of 4,000 soldiers in the army heartland of Salisbury Plain.

Partly, of course, the intention is to strike resonances by playing this trenchant piece of pacifist propaganda to an audience of modern soldiers: an idea which Colonel Robin Faulkner, the garrison's deputy commandant, accepts with admirable equanimity. "I think soldiers today will see the work chiefly as an item of historical interest," he says. "It's a first-class play, but also a reflection of the times in which it was written."

But an equally important intention is to reach out to the garrison community, soldiers' wives and families in particular. Trevelyan Wright, head of education at Salisbury Playhouse, has tied a big community push to the National's visit. "We felt that, unless we actively involved the community, it might be possible for the show to come and go without anybody from the garrison actually seeing it, because the festival draws in audiences from up to 100 miles away."

So tickets have been sold at Tidworth supermarket (run by the Naafi), and a Paul Hamlyn grant has been used to subsidise admission for soldiers' wives, while also providing a crèche for their toddlers. Some 1,500 tickets have also been sold to local schools.

Meanwhile, hundreds of local children have put together projects based on the play. Some of the results will be staged in Tidworth as curtain-raisers to the National's performances. "The community will not only see the show, but feel that they own it as well," Wright says.

The philosophy of reaching



Halo and arty: Bruno Ouyetter, one of the French aerialists who opened this year's festival, on Salisbury Cathedral

Write of passage

THEY don't make summers like they used to, the poet Roger McGough once raved. Of course, he was harking back to the days when flower power was in its bloom and sexual liberation appeared to be the answer. In the real world, however, the truth was somewhat different, with men invariably coming out on top.

Such is the case in Sharnan Macdonald's play at Dundee's Rep Theatre, which uses the same terrain of mothers, daughters and their menfolk as her phenomenally successful *When I was a Girl I Used to Scream and Shout*, albeit in a snickier, more complex fashion. Here we meet 12-year-old Rena, her tight-lipped mother Ailsa and lounge lizard old man John, on holiday in Wales. It is 1961, when innocence just about reigned, despite the efforts of Rena's

THEATRE
Sea Urchins
Dundee

cousin Noelle and the grown-up games that ensue between John and Rena's Auntie Dora. Not to mention older cousin Rhiannon's own affairs of the heart. Add to the equation Rena's burgeoning sexuality, and summer nights are set to go beyond mere kids' stuff.

This co-production between Glasgow's Tron Theatre and Dundee Rep is awash with longing and languor, scenes breaking over each other like waves, but still leaving their emotional mark. Irina Brown's production accomplishes a tricky balancing act in getting to the heart of the matter, not least because of the brave, and at times successful, decision to cast real-life children as Rena, Noelle and their holiday chum and would-be romance, Martin. For all that the trio of young actors give heartrending performances, one cannot help but feel the profundities they mouth are lost at times on their own ears.

The main problem here lies with the men. Male writers are often pilloried for their depiction of women as either stereotypes or nonentities. Apart from Gilly Gilchrist's scily charged *John*, the same could be said of the underwritten male roles here. In the female camp, Alison Peebles makes for an angry defiant Elsa, while Siobhan Flynn's Rhiannon is part daddy's girl, part bundle of hormones.

Still, *Sea Urchins* remains an exercise that skirts nostalgia and looks back at a time that, for girls and boys, couldn't stand still any longer.

NEIL COOPER

BUILDING A LIBRARY: BRITTEN AT WAR

Our definitive guide to the best available recordings on compact disc, presented in conjunction with the BBC Radio 3 series

BENJAMIN BRITTEN'S
WAR REQUIEM
Reviewed by Peter Paul Nash

Today's cultural relativity makes it difficult to appreciate how a single creative figure could achieve such pre-eminence as Benjamin Britten. In the early 1960s Britten and his entourage were like royalty, only much more glamorous. When his *War Requiem* was first performed, to mark the opening of the new Coventry Cathedral, it was a state event.

Britten's ambitious scheme, involving soloists, full chorus and chamber orchestra, set verses by Wilfred Owen within the context of the Latin Requiem Mass, all executed with a dramatic flair honed over a decade and a half of opera composition. What other public art in the 20th century has achieved as much?

The 1963 Decca recording, conducted by Britten himself, is symbolically cast with Peter Pears as the poet-hero. The baritone Dietrich Fischer-Dieskau and soprano Galina Vishnevskaya represent *Our Enemy and Our Ally*. It is an uncontestedly authoritative document, full of power, pathos and majesty.

But the remaining seven CD sets currently available have their strong points. Martyn Brabbins gives an enthusiastic rendition on budget-price Naxos. On Telarc, Robert Shaw conducts the Atlanta Symphony stoningly, even if the disco floor seems nearer than the battlefield.

Herbert Kegel, a highly regarded East German conductor, recorded a strangely Wagnerian yet compelling account on mid-price Berlin Classics. However, Kurt Masur's discipline with the New York Philharmonic on the new Teldec CDs is let

down by the over-emoting tenor Jerry Hadley.

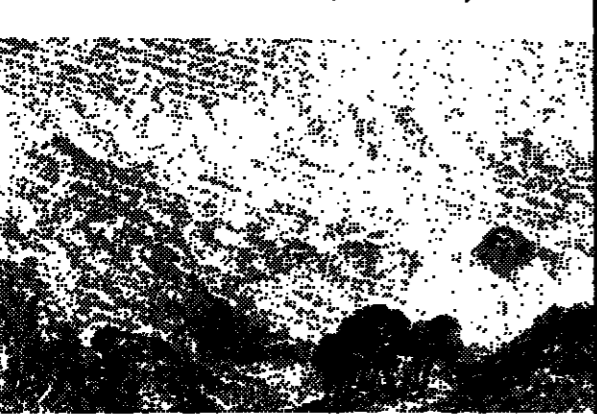
With the London Symphony Orchestra Richard Hickox (on Chandos) lets you feel the consoling warmth of the English Choral Tradition — but is that what the *War Requiem* is really about? Back in 1983 a youthful Simon Rattle record-

ed on EMI and his account is still one of the best — although it does not have quite the edge of John Eliot Gardiner, whose Schleswig-Holstein Festival performance was recorded on DG (437 801-2, 2 CDs) in 1992. The tenor Anthony Rolfe Johnson brings Owen's words magically to life.

To order the recommended recording, with free delivery, please send a cheque payable to The Times Music Shop to FREEPOST, SC0681, Forbes, IV36 0BR or phone 0345 023 498; e-mail: music@the-times.co.uk

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Stake all t trimm
A
OPERA
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0171 499 5000

OPERA: No expense spared for Opera North's production of fringe Verdi; plus a mesmerising Janáček revival

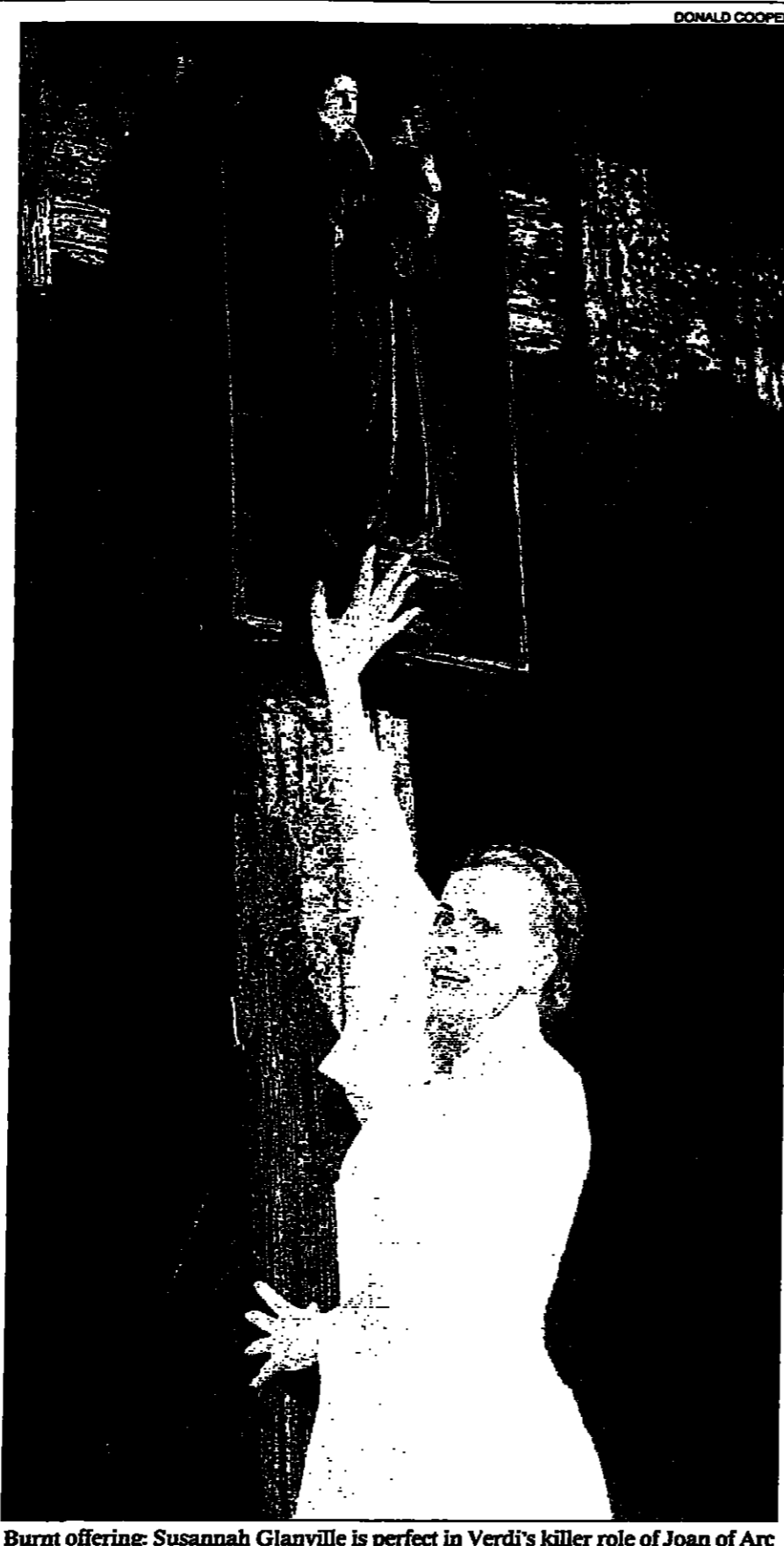
Stake with all the trimmings

All too often, operas on the fringe of the repertory are seen in reach-me-down, almost apologetic stagings. Few would put Verdi's Joan of Arc...

Giovanna d'Arco Grand, Leeds

and agility. Susannah Glanville, who has already made a success of Verdi's Luisa Miller for the company, supplied both in generous quantity and, young and athletic of build, looked perfect as the warrior maiden.

RODNEY MILNES



Burnt offering: Susannah Glanville is perfect in Verdi's killer role of Joan of Arc

Village people on form

After a poorly received opening with Cost Glyndebourne has bounced back to top form with this revival of Katya. Nikolaus Lehnhoff has returned to refresh the production which began his Janáček cycle here ten years ago...

Katya Kabanova Glyndebourne

the storm eventually breaks the LPO but the thunder really roars across the Volga.

Amanda Roocroft, singing the title role for the first time, has come a long way since her first fluffy Fordiugli here in Trevor Nunn's luxury liner Così. The voice has enlarged into a full-blown dramatic soprano...

JOHN HIGGINS

IT SEEMS rather quaint to think that Smashing Pumpkins were once labelled a "grunge" band, a fad which the group from Chicago have since effortlessly transcended.

Heavy mettle

POP The three principals - Billy Corgan (vocals/guitar), James Iha (guitar) and D'Arcy (bass) - exuded an arrogant, otherworldly charisma.

courage the rowdier elements of the audience who put on almost as good a show as the band. The response was especially impressive given that the material performed was taken from the group's forthcoming album Adore (released June 1).

DAVID SINCLAIR

The British weather obliged on Saturday afternoon. Almost as if it knew the title of Lea Anderson's new seaside production, the wind came up over Brighton beach.

signed beach shelter which extends into a wooden jetty. Anderson's maritime ballet is set in a futuristic world. Holes in the ozone layer have turned the Sun into a vicious enemy.

Stranded at sea

DANCE Out on the Windy Beach Brighton

The live music is provided by Steve Blake and Dean Brodick, who use banjo, concertina and percussion to create a strange mixture inspired, explains the programme, by "Santo Daima Amazonian Tea Dance and Appalachian Old Time music".

DEBRA CRAINE

HALF TERM HOLIDAY TREAT advertisement for Cambridge Theatre, featuring a large image of a person's face.

THEATRES advertisement listing various plays and performances at different venues, including 'The Real Inspector Hound' and 'The Phantom of the Opera'.

THEATRES advertisement listing various plays and performances, including 'The Phantom of the Opera' and 'The Iceman Cometh'.

THEATRES advertisement listing various plays and performances, including 'The Iceman Cometh' and 'The Phantom of the Opera'.

THEATRES advertisement listing various plays and performances, including 'The Phantom of the Opera' and 'The Iceman Cometh'.

ENTERTAINMENTS advertisement listing various shows and performances, including 'The Phantom of the Opera' and 'The Iceman Cometh'.

Advertisement for a theatre production, featuring a large image of a person's face and text about the show.

TODAY'S CHOICE advertisement listing various theatre productions and performances, including 'The Phantom of the Opera' and 'The Iceman Cometh'.

THEATRE GUIDE advertisement listing various theatre productions and performances, including 'The Phantom of the Opera' and 'The Iceman Cometh'.

CINEMA GUIDE advertisement listing various film screenings and performances, including 'The Phantom of the Opera' and 'The Iceman Cometh'.

Advertisement for a theatre production, featuring a large image of a person's face and text about the show.

Latest wills

James Kenney Wilkinson, of Gaddesby, Leicestershire, left estate valued at £3,340,420 net. Hannah Maud Nicholas, of Paignton, Devon, left estate valued at £3,688,098 net.

Forthcoming marriages

Mr S.R.T. Grubb and Miss V.M.F. Cleland and Miss V.M.F. Cleland are announced to be married on May 23, 1998.

Marriage

Mr D.L. Brown and Miss E.J. Roberts are announced to be married on Monday, May 25, 1998.

University news

Oxford Balliol College Elections to scholarships and exhibitions. Trinity Term 1998. To a Noble Scholarship: Charles Edward Laurence Goldsmith.

Rare antique table used as film prop

By JOHN SHAW

AN ORNATE table once used as a Hollywood prop has been revealed as the only surviving piece of furniture commissioned by Queen Mary II.

Anniversaries

BIRTHS: Sir Henry Vane, parliamentarian, Hadlow, Kent, 1613. Sir William Petty, political economist, Romsey, Hampshire, 1623. John Churchill, 1st Duke of Marlborough, soldier, Ashe, Devon, 1650.



ALAN WELLS

Philip Rogers and (right) Mark Regan are two of the team of 12 members of the Ancient Society of College Youths...

COURT CIRCULAR

ST JAMES'S PALACE May 25: The Prince of Wales this afternoon attended the Tetbury Woolpack Races and was received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of Gloucestershire.

Today's royal engagement

The Princess Royal will open the restored Museum No 1 at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, at 3.45.

Birthdays today

Mrs Susan Baird, former Lord Provost and Lord-Lieutenant of Glasgow, 58. Miss Helena Bonham Carter, actress, 52. Miss Zola Budd, athlete, 32.

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PERSONAL COLUMN

DEATHS: HAWKING - On May 19th 1998 peacefully after a long illness...

BIRTHDAYS: MARSHALL - the Old Man in 70 today, happy birthday George.

TICKETS FOR SALE: ACCESS TICKETS Specialist in Theatre/Pop/Sport Wimbledon Tennis, Chelsea, 1st Leg, etc.

FLIGHTS DIRECTORY: Jetworld CHEAPEST FARES AVAILABLE. SYDNEY £468, PERTH £468, BANGKOK £390.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: CHILDREN ON DIALYSIS need our love and practical support, not just today but everyday.

PRINCESS DIANA AUTOGRAPHS WANTED (Christmas Cards, Letters, Signed Photos). Also, Royalty and Churchill autographs. Paying at least £750 each.

NEWS

Bank knew Nazi gold was looted

Swiss central bankers knew that Germany was stealing from the Jews and occupied countries when they bought £280 million of gold from the Reichsbank during the Second World War, a team of historians reported.

The Swiss-appointed Independent Commission of Experts confirmed that the Swiss National Bank bought gold worth more than \$25 billion at today's prices, then pretended it did not know where it had come from.

Ministers pressed as hospital cuts soar

The number of hospitals threatened with closure or cuts has soared above 100 for the first time since the election because of NHS financial problems, a Tory party survey shows.

Safety rethink

Ministers have been forced to rethink road safety plans after being told that encouraging motorists to walk and cycle could lead to more injuries, especially among children.

Charity shakeup

Charities should be run more like companies, with donors being given voting rights and well-meaning but incompetent volunteer staff replaced by career professionals, paid at market rates, an influential right-wing think tank says.

SDLP rejects pact

John Hume's Social Democratic and Labour Party turned away from Northern Ireland's traditional sectarian politics as it rebuffed Sinn Fein's call for an electoral pact in the assembly elections.

Akihito revolt

Former PoWs rejected Tony Blair's plea for a warm welcome for Emperor Akihito's visit, urging people to turn their backs as the Japanese head of state rides down the Mall today.

Musical cheats

American pop greats have launched a Congress campaign to thwart hundreds of musical imposters.

In the swim

A growing phenomenon of pool rage has emerged among those who try to work out the stresses of life with a swim.

Disability ignorance

Nearly a third of people think wheelchair users are less intelligent than the norm, says a survey showing alarming levels of ignorance and prejudice about disability.

EI Outback leaves vintners red-faced

A boom in demand for Australian red wine has left the industry red-faced - it being revealed that grape shortages have forced growers to supplement with imports from Europe.



England's football squad leave Luton airport yesterday for a penultimate World Cup warm-up match against Morocco. Page 31

BUSINESS

British Biotech: A former British Biotech executive says that he agrees with damning accusations against the company made by its sacked director of clinical research.

SPORT

Football: Charlton Athletic secured promotion to the Premiership when they beat Sunderland on penalties in the first division play-off.

ARTS

Salisbury fair: Richard Morrison on how Salisbury is setting the standard for next century's arts festivals under the guidance of a sparky impresario.

FEATURES

Ray of light: Five months ago The Times appealed for help to save a South African child's eyes.

RADIO & TV

Preview: Warren Clarke leads an all-star cast for a comedy thriller, In the Red (BBC, 9pm). Review: Joe Joseph on a captivating elegy to football and Des.

OPINION

Victory for democracy: Proof that Hong Kong's people are interested in politics makes it more difficult to argue that consideration of when and how to move to universal suffrage should wait until after 2007.

Open and shut cases: Labour's pledge, weeks before polling day, was that it had "absolutely no plans for a programme of hospital closures".

Poop-poop, Herr Kroete: The innocence of Toad's rapture did not last long. Since 1914, cars have become symbols of national pride and hostility.

LIBRARY

Libby Purves: In tents and halls across the nation, from the humblest lunch to the ten-day orgy, the past decade has seen an explosion of literary events.

MICHAEL PINTO-DUSCHINSKY

There are no rules on campaign financing: no conventions on broadcast coverage. There has not even been a committee of broadcasters to discuss policy issues posed by this constitutional innovation.

TIBOR FISCHER

Being a Prime Minister in Hungary this century has not been much of a blessing. Three have been executed, two exiled, one committed suicide.

AIR MARSHAL SIR CHARLES BROUGHTON

Philosopher: John Lane, radio producer: David Blum, conductor and author.

NATIONHOOD AND LOSS OF SOVEREIGNTY

cancer research; Handel museum; pre-nuptial contracts; work of Diana fund; police priorities; art of packing; Leeds student union; business-speak.

THE PAPER

For those who are not Christians, it must be hard to understand what drew half a million people to Turin when the Pope prayed before the Holy Shroud, which even he said needs more scientific tests.

HOMES

Out with the minimal: the essential accessories for the sitting room.

TOMORROW

IN THE TIMES: Kids, computers and schools of the future: a four-page special on a generation born to be wired.

HOMES

Out with the minimal: the essential accessories for the sitting room.



Interface: Kids, computers and schools of the future: a four-page special on a generation born to be wired.

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,801

A crossword puzzle grid with numbers indicating starting positions. Some squares are filled with letters.

Answers to the crossword puzzle. Includes sections for 'ACROSS', 'DOWN', 'SOLUTION TO PUZZLE NO 20800', and 'WORDSEARCH'.

FORECAST

Forecast table with columns for location, weather, sun, rain, and max/min temperatures.

AROUND BRITAIN YESTERDAY

Table showing weather conditions around Britain yesterday, including sun, rain, and temperature.

WORLD CITY WEATHER

Table showing weather conditions in various world cities like London, New York, and Tokyo.

SHOOT-OUT

A football fixture list or league table section, including names of clubs and scores.

WEMBLER

A section related to the Wembley stadium, including news and event information.

ABROAD

A table of international news and weather reports from various countries.

TODAY

A table of daily news items, including dates, times, and brief descriptions of events.

NEWSPAPERS SUPPORT RECYCLING

Recycled paper made up 41.4% of the raw material for UK newspapers in the first half of 1997.

OTM'S NEWSPAPERS LIMITED. (1998) Published and printed and licensed for distribution in electronic and all other derivative forms by Times Newspapers Ltd...

Advertisement for 'Cats & Dogs' featuring a dog and text: 'For anything from pet shops to dog kennels, don't ask around - ask Scoot. Call free, 24 hours a day.'

Advertisement for 'SCOOT' featuring a dog and text: 'SCOOT 0800 192 192 www.scoot.co.uk'

Large vertical advertisement on the right side of the page, partially obscured and containing text like 'INSIDE SECTION', '2 TODAY', 'Penalty', and 'Ilic'.

Large vertical advertisement at the bottom right side of the page, containing text like 'Wembler', 'BY RUSSELL NEWMAN', and 'AS THE players walked out on to the Wembley pitch at 2.50pm...'.

THE TIMES

2

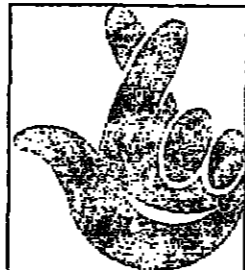
INSIDE SECTION
2
TODAY



GOLF
Montgomerie holds off rally by Els
PAGE 27



LAW
How old is too old to work?
PAGES 35-37



BUSINESS
Camelot about to unveil a surge in profits
PAGE 48

TELEVISION AND RADIO
PAGES 46, 47

TUESDAY MAY 26 1998

Penalty save robs Sunderland of Premiership return after emotional eight-goal thriller at Wembley

Ilic takes Charlton back to the top

CHARLTON ATHLETIC
Mendonca (23, 71, 103)
Rufus (85)

SUNDERLAND
Quinn (50, 73) Phillips (52)
Summerbee (89)

(after extra time; score at 90min 3-3)
Charlton win 7-6 on penalties
Attendance: 77,739

By MATT DICKINSON

THEY went to cheer but their throats were hoarse. They went to cry but the tanks were empty. If ever a football match squeezed the emotions dry it was this, an afternoon of unparalleled drama — football, glorious football at its best.

One wished it would never end, and, as they matched each other penalty by penalty, it appeared it might not. But after nine months, 48 games and a day of breathless excitement in the Nationwide League first division play-offs at Wembley, a winner had to be found and when Michael Gray scuffed his hopelessly weak penalty into Sasa Ilic's arms, the life drained out of Sunderland's fans and Charlton Athletic's exploded with delirium.

"It must be one of the best games anyone has ever seen," Alan Curbishley, the Charlton manager, said and if he meant

SHOOT-OUT

CHARLTON ATHLETIC (all scorers: Mendonca 1-0, Brown 2-1, Jones 3-2, Kinella 4-3, Bowen 5-4, Robinson 6-5, Newton 7-6)
SUNDERLAND: Summerbee 1-1, Johnson 2-2, Ball 3-3, Malkin 4-4, Rose 5-5, Quinn 6-6, Gray (penalty) 6-7.



Ilic is buried beneath a pile of Charlton players after making the penalty save from Gray that took the London club into the FA Carling Premiership. Photograph: Hugh Routledge

for sheer drama he was right. "It would be doing the players a disservice if I even mentioned next season. Let them just enjoy this. They deserve to."

There will indeed be plenty of time to savour the fact that top flight football is back at The Valley, once an abandoned shell, for the first time since 1957. There will be time enough for the Charlton board to work out how best to spend the £8 million that will transform their meagre budget.

Yesterday evening was, as Peter Reid, the Sunderland manager, rightly said, a time to drink for Charlton champagne, for Sunderland bitter, in some cases very bitter.

As Clive Mendonca dragged his shattered legs from the field, his marvellous hat-trick for Charlton almost forgotten amid the frenzy, two North East supporters could contain their fury no longer. Not only had they been beaten but by a player who had once stood among them on the terraces of Roker Park and who had played for Sunder-

land schoolboys. "They threatened to slit my throat if I came back to Wearside," Mendonca revealed.

"It's upsetting because I am the biggest Sunderland fan in the world and I am genuinely gutted at the way it has worked out. I moved there when I was two and lived there till I was 16 so I really wish it could have come out differently.

"I really feel for poor Michael Gray. I went to the same school as him and I can't imagine how he felt. It's terrible that there is that kind of pressure on one guy."

It was cruel indeed but there was never going to be a fair way to separate these two sides after such an epic duel. As Reid pointed out, Sunderland might have finished two points ahead in the first division but they paid yesterday for a weakness — the inability to defend a lead — that has plagued them all season. Too inexperienced, too bullish and too gung-ho, if they did not learn their

lesson yesterday they never will.

Three times they allowed Charlton to claw back the lead, but then Curbishley has been battling against the odds ever since he took over as Charlton manager. Organisation has been his touchstone, creating a side greater than its parts, and it appeared enough

to subdue Sunderland in a first half that went perfectly to Curbishley's plan. Mendonca had given them the lead after 24 minutes with a mesmerising turn past Craddock and Sunderland were reduced to frenetic punts towards Niall Quinn.

It was inevitable that Reid — whose half-time team talk

must have contained more swear words than the entire series of Premier Passions — would rouse more from his team after the interval and they emerged with a renewed sense of purpose.

Level after 50 minutes thanks to a stooping header by Quinn from Summerbee's corner, they were ahead for the first time eight minutes later when Kevin Phillips beat the offside trap for his 35th goal of the season.

Thereafter the goals became a blur as Charlton equalised through Mendonca, only for Quinn to strike again, and then Richard Rufus to send the game into extra time in the 85th minute with his first goal for the club after Lionel Perez came, but never reached, a Robinson corner.

One imagined there was no way that extra time could match the excitement but, as players staggered round the field like drunks on their way home, they managed to strike another two blows, Nicky Summerbee putting Sunder-

land back ahead at 4-3 before Mendonca struck for his hat-trick in the 103rd minute with the finish of a player who believes there will be plenty more where they came from in the FA Carling Premiership.

On they lurched to penalties and Gray's unfortunate miss. "I had not saved anything all afternoon," Ilic said, "so I thought I had better start now. I actually found a 2p coin on the pitch at the start of the shoot-out and was tossing it between the kicks to keep me busy. I threw it away before the last one because it was not working."

Moments later, Charlton were in the Premiership, where they will have a lot more than tuppence to throw around. For now, though, just enjoy the day. Football, glorious football.

Charlton Athletic (4-4-2): S Ilic — D Mills (sub: J Robinson, 70min), R Rufus, E Touss, M Bowen — S Newton, K Jones, M Kinella, N Henry (sub: S Jones, 61) — C Mendonca, M Bright (sub: S Brown, 60). Sunderland (4-4-2): L Perez — D Holloway (sub: C Malin, 45), J Craddock, D Williams, M Gray — N Summerbee, K Ball, L Clark (sub: A Rose, 88), A Johnson — N Quinn, K Phillips (sub: D Dixon, 73). Referee: E Wolstenholme

Year	Club	Relegation Status
1988	Middlesbrough	18th-relegated
1989	Crystal Palace	15th
1990	Sunderland	18th-relegated
1991	Nottingham Forest	21st-relegated
1992	Blackburn Rovers	4th
1993	Swindon Town	22nd-relegated
1994	Leicester City	21st-relegated
1995	Bolton Wanderers	20th-relegated
1996	Leicester City	9th
1997	Crystal Palace	20th-relegated
1998	Charlton Athletic	20th-relegated

* beaten by Swindon, who were denied promotion because of irregular payments

Wembley resounds with agony and ecstasy

By RUSSELL KEMPSON

AS THE players walked out on to the Wembley pitch at 2.50pm yesterday, they were greeted by a cacophony of noise from expectant supporters, fireworks and a blaring public-address system. Let Me Entertain You reverberated around the old stadium; a smell of cordite hung in the air. Battle commenced.

At 5.50pm, after another in a long series of enthralling Nationwide League first division play-off finals, the cacophony returned. Michael Gray missed the fourteenth penalty of a dramatic, almost unbearable, shoot-out and Charlton Athletic fans erupted in raptures. The red and white of southeast London, not Wearside, danced in ecstasy.

Peter Reid, the Sunderland manager, said: "I'm sorry for all my mates in Sunderland." Mendonca said

have to wait a while before I show my face up there again." Sasa Ilic, the Charlton goalkeeper, wandered into a cafe in London two years ago and asked if anyone needed a goalkeeper. After playing for St Leonards Stamford in the Dr Martens League, he found his way to The Valley and stayed. It was he who saved Gray's poorly-struck penalty, diving low to his left.

"Pinch me, please," Ilic said. "I can't believe this is happening to me. I've never conceded four goals before, but what a way to finish it off. It was unbelievable."

Reid probably needed pinching, too. As his players trooped off the pitch, into the sanctuary of the dressing-room, the Charlton team climbed the steps to the royal box to receive their trophy. The pyrotechnics started again and plumes of smoke filled the air. The bottle was



Reid, the Sunderland manager.

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هكذا من الأصل

Scot holds Els's late rally to capture Volvo PGA championship by one stroke

Montgomerie keeps calm to foil great rival

By John Hopkins, Golf Correspondent

THERE are not many more satisfying ways to win a golf tournament than by having to get down in two strokes from a long way back down a fairway, perhaps as far as 100 yards, and doing so. Nick Faldo did this to defeat Curtis Strange and help Europe to win the Ryder Cup in 1995. Yesterday, after a frantic late afternoon on the West Course at Wentworth, Colin Montgomerie followed Faldo's courageous example. He secured one of the most valuable birdies of his career on the 72nd hole to capture the Volvo PGA championship for the first time.

cheers of the crowd. Then when he sank the putt that gave him victory by one stroke over Ernie Els, Patrick Sjoland and Gary Orr, he took the visor off again and this time waved it with great animation and shook his arms above his head in exultation. "Well played, Colin, but I think I'm still one up," Els said, grinning. "The most pleasing thing is to see Ernie Els there in the runner-up spot," Montgomerie replied, grinning.

It was Montgomerie's first victory in Europe this year, his first anywhere since he won a matchplay competition that concluded in the United States in January. His two previous finishes on his home continent in 1998 have been tenth and fifth.

It is remarkable to think that after 33 holes of this tournament, Montgomerie was struggling. He was level par, the halfway guillotine was likely to fall at one under par and so he had three holes in which to get a birdie and guarantee his passage into the next round.

A last round of 69 enabled him to finish 14 under par. It was one stroke less than he had predicted would be needed for victory. After the third round he said boldly: "Fifteen under will do it. I need a 68 tomorrow." But if he was less accurate than usual with that prediction, then he was spot

on with another. "I said at the start of the week that Ernie Els is the best player in the world and that, if you beat Ernie, you will win and I was right. There are three players in the world who I regard as better than me - Davis Love, Tiger Woods and Ernie. To have beaten Ernie twice this year is great." Montgomerie had been the man to beat from the start of the day, having led by one stroke overnight, but through an exciting afternoon, any number of other players jostled with him. Sjoland, who won the Italian Open two weeks ago, finished 13 under but his golf yesterday was not quite good enough to capture a title as important as this. His driving was so poor, for example, that he often chose to use a three-wood from the tee. Furthermore, he scrambled magically again and again, six times at least saving himself from off the green with good chipping and putting.

Orr managed the remarkable achievement of not dropping a stroke over the last six holes of any of his rounds and a 68 took him to 13 under par, the same as Sjoland. A 70 by Dean Robertson showed how promising he is and how unaffected he was by competing alongside Montgomerie.

The one man who had a legitimate reason to be disappointed was Els. He unaccountably dropped two strokes on his home half at precisely the time when a man of his experience should not have done so. He then birdied three of his next four holes for a 68 but, like Orr and Sjoland, he finished on 13 under par.

English and Scottish golfers make effective colleagues in Ryder Cup matches, but at times like that they are pulling together against a common foe. When the unity of the team ethic is set aside, however, and everybody is playing for himself, the gloves come off.

A superficial coating of good manners overlays sporting contacts between the two nations, but it is but a thin veneer. To the rugby players, the footballers and, most probably, the fiddly-winklers of both countries, victory over the auld enemy is the most precious and most satisfying victory of them all.

The Caledonian connection played a pivotal role in this tournament and, in addition to producing a marvellous winner, it also provided three other men without whom the closing stages would not have



Montgomerie shows off the trophy after his narrow Volvo PGA championship victory at Wentworth yesterday

Clans gather at head of the field

As the crescendo mounted towards the last clash of cymbals yesterday afternoon, the leaderboard struck, for two reasons, an uncomfortably discordant note with the predominantly English audience.

Mel Webb watches Montgomerie hounded by three fellow Scots

graduated to the European Tour at the third attempt in 1992, then finished thirtieth in the money-list in 1993 and became the Rookie of the Year. He was a coming man.

Robertson, 27, has also had his share of travails but, urged on by his manager, Ian Doyle, who also advises Stephen Hendry, the former world snooker champion, he put more work into his game during the winter.

He was 44th last week at the Benson and Hedges International but played better than his finishing position might suggest. In this tournament he was tested as never before and was in the thick of it until he pulled his drive into the trees on the 16th.

Both Orr and Robertson will learn from their experiences here. They offered themselves as competition to two of the best golfers in the world and they almost passed the test. And, when all is said and done, all of them, including the winner, Montgomerie, did have the satisfaction of vanquishing the Sassenachs fair and square.



Robertson was in contention until a mistake at the 16th

Amateurs seeking inspiration from grand setting

By Patricia Davies

THE last time that the English women's Amateur championship, which starts today, was played at Walton Heath, Surrey, James Braid, who made up golf's great triumvirate with Harry Vardon and John Henry Taylor, was the club professional and Jill Thornhill, one of the club's most successful players, was not even thought of.

The year was 1928 and Enid Wilson, who became the formidable women's golf correspondent of *The Daily Telegraph*, won the title. Years later, Walton Heath was more readily associated with the *News of the World*, sponsor of the Match Play championship there.

The club also staged the European Open several times and, memorably, the Ryder Cup in 1981, when the United States fielded what was generally considered to be the strongest professional team to take the tee. Of the 12 Americans, only one was not to win at least one major championship and that was Bruce Lietzke, who usually opted to take the summer off.

They will all wish to avoid Thornhill. Her glory days may be behind her at 55, but half a day's practice and some goading from John, her husband, should make her a dangerous floater, a menace to those with aspirations. Talking of aspirations, women in golf must still know their place. One innocent fancied being a marshal at the Open Championship at Royal Birkdale this year, but was rebuffed when she went to put her name on the list. Marshalling, apparently, is a man's job. Scoring is women's work. They can handle cards and pencils - and act as rules officials, if qualified - but not a bit of rope and a "Quiet Please" board. Did someone say this was 1998?

Table with 2 columns: Player Name and Score. Includes names like C Montgomerie, P Sjoland, G Orr, etc.



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Desire for stability working in Hollioake's favour

Alan Lee, cricket correspondent, believes that the England one-day captain could be allowed a stay of execution

Adam Hollioake will have only days to await judgment on his future as captain of the England one-day team, but with results raising doubts over the logic and benefit of divided responsibility, the most that he can hope for is a short-term extension.

Hollioake's position will be discussed officially by the three selectors on Saturday, when they meet to pick a team for the first Test at Edgbaston. They have, of course, debated the issue informally and an announcement is likely next week, the simple alternative to Hollioake being to put Alec Stewart, the Test captain, in complete command.

It is no secret that Graveney was outvoted over the original decision to put Michael Atherton in charge of the one-day side in the Caribbean. Graveney, in fact, felt so strongly that Hollioake should continue that he carefully considered his own position.

Two things have altered, however. The incumbent Test captain is no longer someone who does not necessarily command a one-day place and England are not winning under Hollioake. The defeats, indeed, have affected the captain, diminishing his flair and his confidence in his own bowling.

That this last reservation does not apply to Stewart is obvious, but also significant. Stewart's inclusion in the one-day side is as automatic as it is over five days and it seems increasingly confusing to have him leading one side and not the other.

Those who cite Australia's similar position do not have a case. Steve Waugh captains their one-day side only because it has been decreed that the Test captain, Mark Taylor, no longer merits a place in it. While Atherton was leading England, the same could be argued. But not any more.

Hollioake was unfortunate to face South Africa without Graham Thorpe, who is not only the most important batsman in the side but an understated voice in team decisions. He was also charged with leading a team engaging in a few selectorial experiments, most of which can be pronounced failures.

Irani goes it alone with splendid show of all-round skills

By IVO TENNANT

CHELMSFORD (Essex won toss): Essex (4pts) beat Lancashire by three wickets

THE 1998 Essex Yearbook, edited by the omnipotent Peter Edwards, includes a feature article on the career of Ronnie Irani. It concludes that, although he has developed into a fine county cricketer, he has still to prove himself at the highest level and has been left, therefore, in a "frustrating limbo".

performance on an afternoon when, Atherton excepted, few individuals were to the fore. No other Essex batsman managed to make more than 16. There were 23 balls to spare when Irani drove Chapple to the extra-cover boundary to beat a county who have never won an Axa League match at Chelmsford.

heave over mid-on, in the sense that he does not play that kind of shot in the first-class game. Otherwise, this was an assiduous innings, well received by a crowd that has no need for raucous music or contrived terminology to appreciate good cricket.



Atherton plays a sweep on his way to 70 for Lancashire at Chelmsford, observed by Rollins, the Essex wicketkeeper

If he continues to come up with the kind of all-round performance that he managed yesterday, he will, at the very least, be back in contention for England's one-day internationals for the first time since he toured New Zealand in 1996-7.

When Lancashire last won a match in Essex in this competition, at Colchester in 1990, Atherton made a century. Whatever the England selectors may think of him as a one-day cricketer, his two innings in the Axa League this season have been 98, against Derbyshire, and now 70, which came off 103 balls and included four fours. Not bad for a reject.

Not even those, though, matched Grayson's left-handed catch to dismiss Austin, taken high while running backwards and looking into the sun. This was off Irani, who, against his old county, took four wickets in this competition for the first time.

Sorry Surrey made to suffer

By THRASY PETROPOULOS

TAUNTON (Somerset won toss): Somerset (4pts) beat Surrey by seven wickets

MAKING their way back to London yesterday through the Bank Holiday traffic, the Surrey players would have had plenty of time to contemplate a thoroughly miserable five days at Taunton.

only for Parsons to pull off a fine catch at backward point. Brown is Surrey through and through: one day all guns blazing, the next firing blanks.

DEAN JONES, the former Australia Test batsman, yesterday announced his retirement from first-class cricket. Jones, 37, retired from international cricket in 1994 but continued to play first-class cricket both in England, as captain of Derbyshire, and in Australia, with Victoria.

So lavishly did the ball swing that Mushtaq Ahmed's leg spin was deemed surplus to requirements and Steffen Jones and Marcus Trescothick's seamers brought them five wickets for 30 runs.



Crawley dances down the pitch, only to be bowled

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THE CITI NEVER SLEEPS

Smithies appears favourite to extend innings as captain

Sarah Potter on how the selectors see the forthcoming tour of Australia

THE men made their change after defeat in the Caribbean and now the women must decide if Karen Smithies, their captain of five years, is to be retained. Four days of trial matches at Wellington culminate this evening with the announcement of England's 14-player squad for the one-day series against Australia this summer.

for change would mean looking at an up-and-coming younger person." Megan Lear, the coach, said, "There isn't any obvious choice at the moment."

Smithies, 29, accepted that her role is being examined. "Sometimes you do need a change," she said. "But I don't feel it's like the Mike Atherton saga, where you could tell things were not working."

and marketing at Leicester-shire's county ground about two weeks ago. It's perfect. "My desk looks straight out on to the pitch and in time I'll be responsible for promoting youth and women's cricket in the area."



Smithies: leading role

Yorkshire weather Alleyne's assault

By JACK BARTLEY

GLOUCESTER (Gloucestershire won toss): Yorkshire (4pts) beat Gloucestershire by nine runs

ALTHOUGH they had to contend with a hat-trick from Mike Smith and an excellent all-round display by Mark Alleyne, whose 88 gave the home side a fighting chance, Yorkshire overcame the loss of the toss for the sixth successive time to record their fifth win of the season yesterday.

They remain top of the Axa League as a result and have at least gained some compensation for their county championship defeat on the same ground.



Smith: hat-trick

he felt victim to a wonderful catch by Windows, who dived forward at deep mid-wicket to take the ball inches off the ground. This was off the bowling of Ball, who, like Alleyne, had a fine all-round match.

It was Parker who gave the Yorkshire innings crucial impetus when the going became sticky. Three times, he sent balls from the fast-medium Lewis high over the boundary boards, twice in one over. Thus by the time Smith returned to wreak havoc, Yorkshire were already assured of a decent score.

With three overs remaining, and only three wickets left, 36 runs were still required. Ball kept going well, but 16 from the last over proved far too many and Hutchison finished things off.

THE TIMES

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Somerset

Surrey

Warwickshire

Worcestershire

Yorkshire

CRICKET

Wells and Hooper stand tall as Kent cruise home

BY BARNEY SPENDER
straight drive off the last ball of Nicky Phillips's seventh over which ricocheted off the pavilion wall above the players' balcony. Hooper took a single off the first ball of the next over, the 31st of the innings, and the next five deliveries, rank long-hops from Jon Lewis, all sailed over the short boundary on the line

Dakin benefits as Hampshire slump

BY RICHARD HOBSON
LEICESTER (Hampshire won toss; Leicestershire (Apts) beat Hampshire by 117 runs)
THOSE who felt that Hampshire sat in a false position in the Axa League saw their opinion endorsed by a feeble batting performance at Grace Road yesterday. They capitulated against a bowling attack missing Lewis, Mills and Mully in a manner that belied their previously impressive record in the competition.



Knight works the ball through the off side during Warwickshire's defeat yesterday

Middlesex young guns inspire winning run

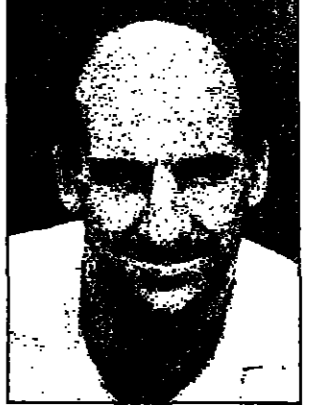
BY PAT GIBSON
David Nash, 20, held four catches. Middlesex did stumble at the start of their reply when Newport threatened to do to them what Hewitt had done to Warwickshire by claiming Langer leg-before and having Nash caught behind. Pooley gave them momentum, however, with a brisk 19 before Sheriary yanked him and Shah could not have asked for a better partner than Ramprakash to make sure that Middlesex were up with the required rate even before the weather intervened.

Johnson leads way to serene success

BY AHMER KHOKHAR
EDGBASTON (Nottinghamshire won toss; Nottinghamshire (Apts) beat Warwickshire by seven wickets (D/L method)
NOTTINGHAMSHIRE maintained their recent upturn in fortune by outplaying a lacklustre Warwickshire side in the Axa League yesterday, scoring 20 more runs than their opponents despite batting second. Such are the vagaries of the Duckworth/Lewis system. On this occasion, though, there can be little doubting that the winners were worthy of that achievement.

Sussex humbled by Dean's bowling

BY RUPERT COX
HORSHAM (Derbyshire won toss; Derbyshire (Apts) beat Sussex by six wickets
THERE was a suggestion that Chris Adams's omission from the Sussex line-up yesterday was conceived out of diplomacy, after the recent exchanges between Adams and Kim Barnett in the national press, but closer inspection of Adams's fractured little finger discouraged such hearsay. He will, though, have been gratified not to be tarnished by the brush that saw Sussex comprehensively defeated.



Barnett: medium-pace role

Warwickshire began quietly, losing Neil Smith to an adventurous attempted hook off the bowling of Franks, the wicketkeeper benefiting with a straightforward catch. Knight, back from duty with England, lasted little longer, making only 13, a poor return after his high scoring with the national team. Knight will not doubt be hopeful of claiming a place in the five-day team for the first Test against South Africa a week on Thursday on his home ground, even though it would appear that Michael Atherton and Darren Maddy are pencilled in for the job.

Table with multiple columns containing cricket scores, player names, and statistics for various matches including Essex v Lancashire, Gloucestershire v Kent, and others.

Cotterly secures rare Glamorgan victory

BY MICHAEL AUSTIN
NORTHAMPTON (Glamorgan won toss; Glamorgan (Apts) beat Northamptonshire by five wickets (D/L method)
A LAVISH innings of 77 not out from 41 balls by Tony Cotterly, the captain, in partnership with Adrian Shaw, brought Glamorgan their first Axa League win in 14 matches, dating back to last June, when they beat Sussex at Swanssea. They ended the long wait with three balls to spare.

THE TIMES CRICKET Reports and scores from the British and Overseas county championship Call 0891 525 019

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536-695 Player list with columns for country, number, and goals scored. Includes players like Roberto Carlos, Ronaldo, Davor Simunovic, etc.

696-965 Player list with columns for country, number, and goals scored. Includes players like Zinedine Zidane, Michael Laudrup, etc.

McManis ready for his final

Danish defend Danish

FIXTURES

MOTOR RACING

Lacklustre Jordan prepare for changes

FROM KEVIN EASON IN MONTE CARLO

FRIENDS, mechanics and well-wishers crowded into the cramped tent to surround Giancarlo Fisichella, who beamed and savoured every moment of his successful day here in Monaco. The contrast a few feet away from his former team could not have been more stark: the Jordan motor home was virtually dismantled, Eddie Jordan, the mercantile team owner, long since fled to the airport in the wake of another dismal day. Much was expected of the Jordan team this season, particularly after persuading the former world champion Damon Hill, to join the promising Ralf Schumacher. Jordan believed that this was his dream team. He has been knocking on the door of that first victory for so long, even he believed it was ready to swing wide to usher him into the hall of fame of victorious Formula One teams. Instead, he found himself yesterday denying rumours that he is about to sell up, frustrated with a run of results that saw Schumacher crash again in the Monaco Grand Prix on Sunday while Hill arrived home a lowly eighth. Honda is said to want to buy Jordan to start its own Formula One team while stories emerged over the weekend that the Canadian entrepreneur, Walter Wolf, was also interested. If he makes Jordan an offer, he should hold the receiver well away from his ear. The Irishman, 50, is not one to mince words and the Jordan team are the embodiment of his likeable but maverick personality. He will not give up that easily. "It is complete nonsense that the team is up for sale," he said. "This is my life and I am certainly not moving out." But the team appear suddenly to have run out of steam, well behind the top teams and struggling to stay ahead of the traditional backmarkers. Perhaps a partner



Menu acknowledges the congratulations from the crowd at Oulton Park after winning the ninth round yesterday

Menu experiences sweet and sour

THE Renault team celebrated at Oulton Park yesterday as Alain Menu and Jason Plato, the Laguna drivers, took a win apiece in the ninth and tenth rounds of the Auto Trader RAC British Touring Car championship. Menu, of Switzerland, the title-holder, dominated the sprint race, winning with ease from the pole, and looked set to make it two in a row in the feature race until an uncharacteristic mistake handed victory to his team-mate Rickard Rydell, of Sweden, the Volvo driver. Finished second in both races to extend his overall championship lead to 24 points. The sprint race saw a performance redolent of Menu's championship-dominating form of last season. The wiry Swiss led all the way from pole position in his Laguna, beating off a start-line challenge from Rydell and surging into a one-second lead over the Swede by the third of the 20 laps. For good measure, Menu posted the fastest lap time of the race as he sped into the distance and eased off only after extending the gap on his pursuers to two seconds, five laps from the chequered flag. Plato's victory keeps the Renault squad in front in the manufacturers' and team championships, and Tommy Rustad, Renault's independent driver, takes over the leadership of the Autosport Cup after a second class victory in the feature race.

RUGBY UNION: WOODWARD JUGGLING WITH LIMITED RESOURCES

England aim to cause ripple or two

BY DAVID HANDS RUGBY CORRESPONDENT THE England tour party for the southern hemisphere has been engaged in team-building, including sailing in the Solent, but the players' minds will be focused tomorrow when Clive Woodward, the coach, announces his XV to play Australia on June 6. The team will be among the least experienced to represent England against one of the leading rugby powers. Australia, meanwhile, are optimistic that Joe Roff, David Wilson and John Eales, the captain, all missing in the final round of Super 12 pool games, will be fit to play. The England party leave for Brisbane tomorrow. It will be of limited comfort to England that New Zealand have their own casualty list, which includes Jonah Lomu, the wing, as they prepare for the two internationals in Dunedin (June 20) and Auckland (June 27). Joeli Vidiri has been named in Lomu's place for the trial on June 8, with Taine Randall named to captain the shadow All Blacks. Randall, the Otago No 8, was earmarked two years ago as a potential successor to Sean Fitzpatrick: now that Fitzpatrick has been forced to retire by injury, Randall has a chance, at 23, to become New Zealand's fourth-youngest captain. "We have a number of players who will be monitored in the next few weeks to see if they are fit and available," John Hart, the New Zealand coach, said. "In that camp are Christian Cullen, Michael Jones, Frank Bunce, Jonah Lomu and Mark Robinson. After the England games, we will review our options and may make changes." Fiji played Scotland in the early hours of today in the first of two internationals against northern-hemisphere opponents — they play France in Suva next month — as part of their preparation for World Cup qualifying matches in September against Australia, Western Samoa and Tonga. Fiji failed to qualify for the 1995 tournament and have thrown their resources back into the 15-a-side game rather than concentrating on sevens. Even so, they won the Henley Sevens by beating Western Samoa 31-28 in the final, Varetto Nayaevle scoring four of their five tries.

RUGBY LEAGUE

Gateshead led by Richardson

BY CHRISTOPHER IRVINE THE race for a possible two Super League franchises next year intensified yesterday with the announcement that Shane Richardson is leaving as chief executive of Cronulla Sharks in Australia to lead the bid team for Gateshead International Stadium. The Gateshead consortium lodged a formal application last week with backing from the local authority, the owner of the stadium, Richardson, a key player in the emergence of the Australasian Super League in 1995, will team up at Gateshead next month with Kath Hetherington, a former Rugby Football League (RFL) president, who founded Sheffield Eagles in 1984 with her husband, Gary, now chief executive of Leeds Rhinos. "There are easier job options in Australia, but this is something I've always wanted to do," Richardson said. "The RFL has viewed Gateshead as an excellent expansion area for many years. International games have been played there before large crowds and two Super League matches are scheduled there for July." Cardiff, Swansea and Northampton have also submitted applications. Glasgow, Edinburgh and Dublin are less-fancied runners at this stage, while Toulouse has emerged as a possible contender for French readmission to the Super League after the demise last year of Paris Saint-Germain, although probably not until 2000. The shape of the competition next year is not due to be confirmed until August. It has been tentatively agreed that the present 12 teams will be expanded to 14. Applicants, including ambitious clubs in the lower divisions, must satisfy strict criteria on financial support, playing strength and quality of facilities. Maurice Lindsay, managing director of Super League Europe, said: "I think we'll do well if two clubs can satisfy the criteria. The availability of the right quality of players is a problem for any entrant. A team needs to be able to recruit not only from within the game but also from overseas and rugby union." Richardson, one of Australia's most respected administrators, would not be moving to England without reasonable assurance about Gateshead's entry. It has the advantage of a solid junior infrastructure, and, like South Wales, where the franchise battle is hotting up, has an academy team in place. Swansea also has local authority support and the prospect of a new stadium to replace the ageing Vetch Field, but it lacks Cardiff's apparent financial muscle and the superior facilities available at Cardiff Arms Park. Both venues will stage Super League matches in a testing of the waters in July. Cardiff, Swansea and Northampton have also submitted applications. Glasgow, Edinburgh and Dublin are less-fancied runners at this stage, while Toulouse has emerged as a possible contender for French readmission to the Super League after the demise last year of Paris Saint-Germain, although probably not until 2000. The shape of the competition next year is not due to be confirmed until August. It has been tentatively agreed that the present 12 teams will be expanded to 14. Applicants, including ambitious clubs in the lower divisions, must satisfy strict criteria on financial support, playing strength and quality of facilities. Maurice Lindsay, managing director of Super League Europe, said: "I think we'll do well if two clubs can satisfy the criteria. The availability of the right quality of players is a problem for any entrant. A team needs to be able to recruit not only from within the game but also from overseas and rugby union." Richardson, one of Australia's most respected administrators, would not be moving to England without reasonable assurance about Gateshead's entry. It has the advantage of a solid junior infrastructure, and, like South Wales, where the franchise battle is hotting up, has an academy team in place. Swansea also has local authority support and the prospect of a new stadium to replace the ageing Vetch Field, but it lacks Cardiff's apparent financial muscle and the superior facilities available at Cardiff Arms Park. Both venues will stage Super League matches in a testing of the waters in July.

Wigan change course after Sailor rejection

THE signals were obvious that Wendell Sailor did not fancy joining Wigan Warriors, despite the initial lure of becoming the world's most highly paid player (Christopher Irvine writes). Now that the Australia wing has rejected a two-year contract worth more than £500,000, it can only fuel speculation that other Australian luminaries, such as Laurie Daley or Brad Fittler, could be tempted to Central Park. Having reluctantly bid Sailor farewell but with the money for him still available, Wigan will want to deliver an equally prominent name. Phil Clarke, the club chief executive, said: "We're disappointed but we're still looking and there are other options." The rejection by Sailor, 23, represents a serious setback. When he verbally agreed the deal in January, he said that Wayne Bennett and Shane Edwards, the Brisbane Broncos coach and chief executive, had agreed to release him. That proved not to be the case. On his return, Brisbane said that they were going to exercise a two-year option, which Sailor accepted yesterday in dropping legal action against the Broncos. "I led with the heart and not my head," Sailor said. "I wanted to be the highest-paid player in the game, but that isn't everything."

RACING RESULTS FROM YESTERDAY'S TEN MEETINGS

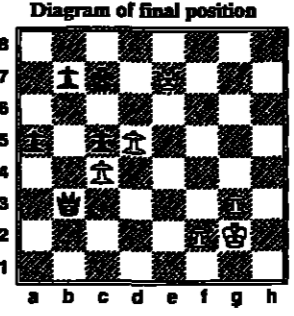
Table with 10 columns representing different race meetings: Sandown Park, Fontwell Park, Redcar, Hereford, Huntingdon, Leicester, Cartmel, Wetherby, Uttoxeter, and Sandown Park (repeated). Each column lists race numbers, names of horses, jockeys, and betting odds.

SHEEHAN on BRIDGE

BY ROBERT SHEEHAN, BRIDGE CORRESPONDENT If you hold Q32 opposite K10654, your best chance of making four tricks is to finesse the ten. However, if possible you should start by leading towards the queen, in case the player sitting under the queen started with AJ alone. The club suit in the hand below demonstrates an extension to that idea. Dealer South North-South Game IMPs

KEENE on CHESS

BY RAYMOND KEENE, CHESS CORRESPONDENT Simultaneous feat As reported last week, Garry Kasparov overwhelmed an Israeli team of grandmaster strength, all rated in the region of 2,600, in a simultaneous display. Kasparov scored six wins, two draws and no losses. White: Garry Kasparov Black: Emil Sutovsky Kasparov v Israel team Sicilian Defence



White to play. This position is from the game Zhang Zhong - Chuah Heng Meng, Indonesia, 1998. How did White exploit the tactical features of this position to win material? BY RAYMOND KEENE

LAW

FOCUS: BIRMINGHAM 36
STEALING TIME 37

Passing 60 does not necessarily mean you are past it, argues Derek Wheatley, QC

The Government has appointed a task force of six ministers to consider how the lot of the elderly might be improved. In February the Employment Minister, Andrew Smith, announced that he was committed to tackling the unfairness of age discrimination and said: "We are determined that all people should have a fair crack of the whip in the jobs market..." He proposed a voluntary code of practice for the private sector "to combat unjustified age discrimination". His department now says that there is to be a consultation paper, which we may see by the end of June. But what is the Government, as the biggest employer of all, doing itself? I remembered that my own application to be reappointed a Crown Court Recorder on leaving the City, after nearly three years in office before going there, had been rejected. I also remembered that the reason given had been "appointments are not usually made after 50". So I decided to find out. If I could.

It was not easy. A telephone call to the Employment Department revealed that the general age of retirement for civil servants is 60. There are no plans for change. One informant was unable to say whether there was any age limitation on recruitment. He suggested I try the Cabinet Office. The press officer there was very helpful but could not say, offhand, what recruitment, if any, was subject to any maximum age, or whether any change in government policy was imminent. But she took my fax number and promised an early reply. After several weeks and some reminders, I am still waiting for it. Could it be that the biggest age discriminator of all is the Government, despite Mr Smith's fine words: "Unjustified age discrimination is morally wrong, makes no economic sense and is a grave injustice to those that it affects...?"

The age of retirement of judges has always constituted a splendid but isolated exception to everything else (Lord Denning retired at 83). But the judicial retirement age has recently been reduced from 72 to 70. Does Mr Smith's announcement mean that there will be any change in the policy for the age of judicial appointment and tenure of office? The Lord Chancellor's Department could not say, although it did point out the rather minimal improvement that the Lord Chancellor increased the maximum age for appointment as Assistant Recorder from 50 to 53 last October.

The law does not help. Discrimination in employment on the ground of age is not prohibited. Employers do it all the time. You only have to look at the "sit vac" columns in any of the papers. There are very few jobs for anyone over 50 still anxious to earn an honest penny to provide for retirement and not rely on the State. I should



Lord Denning, former Master of the Rolls: well into his eighties before he took up the pleasures of leisure

Age concerns

know. On leaving Lloyds Bank - retirement age 60 - I found it difficult to find any employment at all, even part-time. I was bad at golf, a spasmodic enthusiast in the garden. I wanted to go on doing something. I had experience as a lawyer and was still a member of the Bar Council, the Commercial Court Committee, the Working Party on Banking Law and the General Committee of the Bar Association for Commerce, Finance and Industry (BACFI). Nine years on, spent part-time as a consultant, I am working, with thanks and much relief, partly as lawyer, partly executive, for a group of telecommunications companies. Among other

things, we put telephones in student rooms in university halls of residence. How glad I am to be doing it, and how lucky. But it was not easy. Nobody helped. Before this, on leaving the City, I had applied for government and other jobs without rating an interview. Age was the problem.

The Government's own employment policy and legislation - allowing, if not encouraging, discrimination against mature citizens - is in strange contrast to its stance against other forms of discrimination. The general rule is that a man or woman is judged only on ability to do the job in question. If he/she is not selected, or is dismissed, because of sex, marital status, colour,

sexual proclivity or ethnic origin, the employer will be in trouble. For more than 20 years we have had the Sex Discrimination Act 1975, soon followed by the Race Relations Act 1976. These made it unlawful to discriminate on grounds of ethnic origin or sex in employment, education, the provision of goods, services or premises.

The European Convention on Human Rights provides against discrimination on grounds of "sex, race, colour, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, or association with a national minority, property, birth or other status". Did they think it unnecessary to mention age, or did they deliberately leave it out? It is now unlawful to discriminate against the disabled, and could not age be disabling? The case for barring age discrimination is cogent. The able and experienced should be eligible for jobs if qualified. Mr Smith has now said so. But should he not put the Government's own house in order first, and amend the law to equate discrimination on grounds of age with all the rest?

The author, a former Crown Court Recorder and chief legal adviser at Lloyds Bank, became the chairman of Manorgate (UK) Limited last year.

GOLDEN OLDIES

Who says you shouldn't be involved with the law after a certain age? Many great people have proved that wrong, including:

- Moses the Law-giver: legendary.
- Lord Hallsham: 90, elder statesman and former Lord Chancellor.
- Peter Carter-Ruck: at 84, still a name to fear in libel cases.
- Lord Halsbury: continued as a law lord at 92.
- Rumpole of the Bailey: will John Mortimer never let him hang up his wig?
- Maxwell Fyfe: Scottish jurist, 1900-67. Of him, it was said: The nearest thing to death in life / is David Patrick Maxwell Fyfe.

A wide net needed to find a DPP

WHO IS likely to be the next DPP? Names are already being bandied about, including John Nutting, David Calvert-Smith, Judin Bevan, QC, and John Bevan, although barristers equally well-known for defence work, such as Jonathan Caplan, QC, could be an inspiring choice.

The problem is going to be persuading someone to take it on. Roy Amlot, the chairman of the Criminal Bar Association (who could be a contender), said: "It is absolutely critical that we get the right person for the job, to get the whole service back to its priorities - making the right decisions on what cases should go to court."

With the forthcoming Glidewell report expected to recommend that a chief execu-

utive oversee the service, the DPP could be left to get on with the job he or she is meant to do. "It is vital that they go out and headhunt, not just advertise and expect the right person to apply, because they won't." As for the chief executive, the post is likely to be appointed, not advertised.

Winning team

WHEN was the last time the President of the Law Society and the Chairman of the Bar Council worked together on the same case? It may happen if Michael Napier wins the Law Society elections this summer to become the society's President. His long-standing friend and colleague, Daniel Brennan, QC, is due to take over from Heather Hallett, QC, as Chairman of the Bar Council next year.

Both men are acting in the

ground-breaking multiparty action against the tobacco companies. It is not the first time they have worked together. When conditional fees were introduced three years ago, Mr Napier was president of the Association of Personal Injury Lawyers, and Mr Brennan was chairman of the Personal Injury Bar Association. When the Law Society and the Bar Council failed to agree on acceptable terms of engagement for solicitors instructing barristers in "no win, no fee" cases, they forged their own agreement. Are we about to see a rapprochement between the two traditionally somewhat hostile branches of the profession?

Powerful friend

SO Jack Straw, the Home Secretary, and the Lord Chief Justice, Lord Bingham of Cornhill, are on drinking terms, according to a press article this week. What a change from the previous Government: neither Lord Bingham nor his predecessor, Lord Taylor of Gosforth, would have been found socialising with Michael Howard - who was more likely to give the appearance that a meeting with the Lord Chief Justice had to be "slanted in" between Radio 4 interviews. Mr Straw has also become a bencher of Inner Temple. The legal profession can bend his ear, even if Lord Irvine of Lairg is out of reach.

Self-help guide

HAVE the bags under your eyes got bigger? Do you almost pray for each day to end? Do you dread looking at

letters marked "private & confidential" that are addressed to you? If your answer is yes to all three questions, your law firm is probably in dire straits, according to the Law Society's guide for solicitors, *Cashflow And Improved Financial Management*. The guide, which was published last week, is designed to help struggling firms to improve their performance. A key problem, according to the booklet, is that solicitors tend not to admit that there is a problem until it is too late. "It can be very difficult to find the courage to talk to someone," it says. "It is not clear whether we solicitors have put ourselves on a pedestal and therefore allow ourselves to show no human failing, or whether clients have put us there and we feel the need to keep up the charade that we are completely immune from the toils and stresses of everyday life."

Arbitration coup

WHO better to secure as patron to a new arbitration enterprise than the man behind the 1997 Arbitration Act, Lord Saville of Newdigate? That is precisely what the group Arbitration for Commerce and Industry, which was launched last week, has achieved. Formed by two up-and-coming women barristers, Elizabeth Birch and Rezia Harrison, the group consists of a panel of 50 lawyers who will be available to arbitrate small to medium-sized business disputes. The group aims to operate in the middle ground between the City Disputes Panel, which handles very large disputes, and the small consumer disputes, many of which are handled by the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators.

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Pro bono power

THE Lord Chief Justice, Lord Bingham of Cornhill, is to deliver the main address at the first conference in this country dedicated to pro bono work, organised by the newly formed Solicitors Pro Bono Group. The gathering, in London on June 6, will bring together an impressive array of senior legal figures including the Solicitor-General, Lord Falconer of Thronston, QC, the former Bar Council Chairman, Peter Goldsmith, QC, Mark Ste-



Lord Bingham: speaker

phens, of Stephens Innocent, and Martene Winfield, the National Consumer Council's head of legal services policy. Details: 071-929 5601

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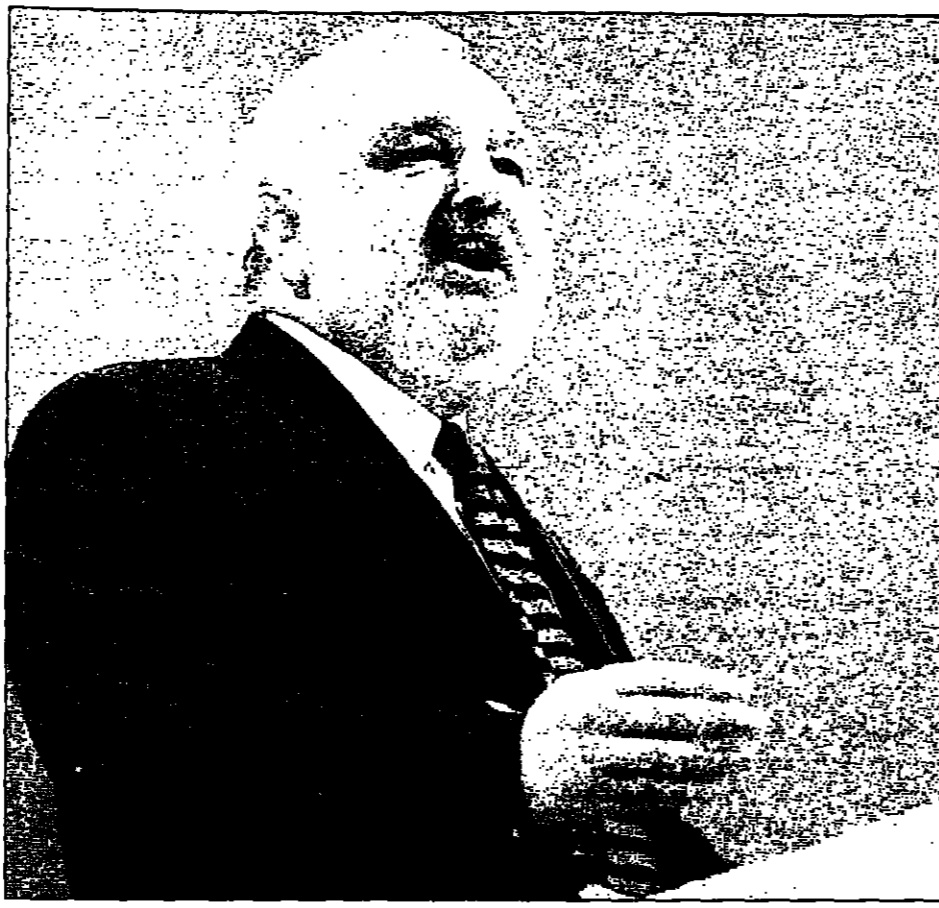
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Continuing her series on legal aid reforms, Frances Gibb looks at the impact on solicitors

An end to learn as you earn?

The war of words over the Lord Chancellor's plans to expand "no win, no fee" work and to scrap legal aid for accident claims is heating up. In the past month, ministers have



Frank Dobson: the best place for a lawyer is on the operating table, the Health Secretary said

decried lawyers as fat cats (this time the term was avoided) with their league table of top legal aid earners. Then Frank Dobson, the Health Secretary, accused lawyers of ambulance chasing and said that the best place for a lawyer was on the operating table. The rhetoric may help to harden public opinion against lawyers and their protests, but does little to shed light on the debate.

Many solicitors favour expanding "no win, no fee" work. On the basis of the past three years, when it has been available for personal injury cases, they believe that it does widen access to justice. They also believe they can make a good living from it. Tom Jones, a solicitor with Thompsons, handles large numbers of accident claims for trade union members. He says: "No win, no fee has caught the public imagination; extending it to other areas of the law is welcome." Even those eligible for legal aid, he says, often opt for "no win, no fee" deals.

An expansion of conditional fee work on its own would be welcomed by solicitors. But it is the fact that it is tied in with the scrapping of legal aid — in the first instance, for accident claims — that is almost universally opposed. Phillip Sycamore, the Law Society President, says that no-win deals should be an optional extra, not a substitute for legal aid. The poor, he argues, will lose out and access to justice for middle-income Britain will be at the expense of many who now qualify for legal aid.

Rival statistics have been produced: KPMG, for the Government, argues that the high success rate in accident cases makes it profitable for solicitors to take cases on a "no win, no fee" basis, even if they do have to find the initial costs. This applies, the report argues, whether firms are small, medium or large — and concludes that within three years, firms would be making significant profits. Geoff Hoon, a junior minister at the Lord Chancellor's Department, says it shows that people on low incomes with reasonable claims will find lawyers willing to take on their cases.

But the Law Society and the Association of Personal Injury Lawyers (Apir) point out that the KPMG research is, by its own admission, based on limited data and on hypothetical firms. David Marshall, an Apir solicitor, says that the research does not examine how much capital firms will have to invest to deal effectively with the change, nor how firms will bridge the three to five-year transition as legal aid is withdrawn. The hypothetical firms in the research all start without overdrafts. But he says, that is not the case with many small law firms.

It is one thing for "bad" cases to fall out of the net under the reforms; another for another, though difficult, cases. Ms Alexander agrees there must be provision for complex cases that law firms will not be able to fund upfront. Many such cases have been cited by personal injury lawyers. The Government intends some kind of safety-net fund, but it may cover only costly cases of more than £100,000.

So will people lose out? The benefits of the reforms are finely balanced. Accident claims absorb a net cost of £34 million, less than 2.5 per cent of the entire legal aid budget of £1.6 billion. But the controls on it are poor, and there has been too often, Mr Jones says: "Too often, it is a scheme that allows poor-quality, inefficient lawyers to give poor-quality advice and be paid whatever the result."

That may serve the profession, but it does not serve the public or the taxpayer.

Next week: insurers, premiums and the "success fee"



'Stealing' time is now a crime

Do not give fellow drivers your unexpired car park tickets, says Gary Slapper

Law-abiding and morally upright people will have to think twice about how they behave in car parks in future after a recent Court of Appeal decision that brought some unlikely characters into the possible definition of "criminal".

Acts of altruism between strangers are not usually crimes, but the practice of handing over an unexpired car park ticket to someone who would otherwise buy one was moved into the realm of the criminal law last month.

Adrian Marshall, Robert Coombes and Birol Eren, who had been caught on closed-circuit television at Victoria station reselling London Underground tickets, were convicted of theft at Southwark Crown Court. Marshall and Coombes were put on probation for two years and Eren was ordered to serve 40 hours of community service.

The men collected tickets from passengers coming out of the station and then resold them cut-price to other travellers. London Underground, which loses £30 million a year through fraud, including ticket touting, argued that the men had deprived it of revenue. Lord Justice Mantell, dismissing their appeal against the convictions, said it could have implications for all ticket touts and "even for the ordinary motorist who passes on the benefit of an unexpired parking ticket".

Gordon Bell, the principal parking engineer with the London Borough of Richmond, says that people hand over unexpired tickets where the structure of tariffs is too crude, such as those of a one-hour minimum. "Car parks with options of 15-minute tickets have fewer incidents of tickets being handed over," he says.

It is a serious criminal offence. It is governed by Section 1 of the Theft Act 1968, which says that the crime occurs where a person "dishonestly appropriates property belonging to another with the intention of permanently depriving the other of it".

CORRECTION: Nicholas Crichton did not say that children who commit crimes should not be dealt with in the criminal courts (Law, May 19). However, he believes that those courts are unsuitable for dealing with children's problems arising in family proceedings.

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Clockmaker a winner in contest for bright ideas

By IOLA SMITH

INNOVATION is being rewarded in rural Wales, where five small businesses have won a total of £25,000 to develop new products or manufacturing processes.

The firms received the awards after winning a Manufacturing Ideas Challenge funded by the Development Board for Rural Wales.

The competition is part of the Welsh regional technology programme, an EU initiative designed to promote innovation in selected pilot regions of Europe.

The two largest challenge awards go to Salamanda, of Llanfyllin, and Uniwire, of Aberystwyth. Salamanda has spent the past four years designing and manufacturing clocks that are made almost entirely of wood.

Uniwire, specialising in the agricultural market, has come up with a hand-held tool that can mechanically join two sections of wire fences.

The third winner, Laine Arts, a craft business based at Ystradgynlais, in the Swansea Valley, has developed a process for manufacturing synthetic marble.

All five winners will use their prize money to refine their products and bring them to the marketplace.

Cordials give cashflow plenty of refreshment

Widget Finn finds a couple transforming blossom into sweet success

June is blossom time in elderflower country. That suits Kit and Shireen Morris, because elderflower filled a gap in their highly seasonal business.

The Bottle Green Drinks Company's range of classically English adult soft drinks, of which elderflower cordial is the brand leader, came about almost by accident.

"To balance the cashflow, we needed another product as the grapes are harvested in autumn but there are no sales till the spring," explains Mr Morris.

Returning to the Cotswolds, the Morrises put £20,000 into the business and borrowed £35,000. During the first elderflower harvest in June they picked the blossoms themselves, producing 5,000 bottles.

Lower production and profits among businesses with turnovers below £5 million were recorded during the first three months of this year by the quarterly trends survey of Euler Trade Indemnity, the credit insurer.

More small companies will be made insolvent in Europe during the next two years owing to the euro and millennium compliance work, says Experian.

Royal Bank of Scotland has an invoice finance scheme for businesses with annual turnover as low as £50,000. It will lend up to 85 per cent of outstanding invoices.

BT is waiving the charge for connection to its Freephone 0800 service until July 12.



Expanding: Kit and Shireen Morris's cordials are increasingly popular in countries with alcohol bans

acres planted on a local farm. Early in the ten-year-old company's existence, the elderflower cordial was recommended on the BBC's Food and Drink programme.

In the first year, turnover was £38,000, with losses of £12,000. Now turnover has hit £2.6 million with production of more than five million bottles.

During the second year of trading, the Morrises took on three people. They also needed to expand from

cordials into a ready-to-drink range, requiring expensive plant. The appropriate machinery would cost £200,000 new, but were fortunate to find Paul Martin, a mechanical engineer who rebuilt a reconditioned machine and now designs and maintains all the equipment.

Bottle Green Drinks' first sales were made direct to the public through local shows and events. Supermarkets were slow to take up the cordials.

market for soft drinks is rapidly expanding with stringent drink-drive clampdowns, but the keenest growth for Bottle Green products is coming from countries where alcohol is banned.

The first consignment to Saudi Arabia has just been delivered - though Mr Morris admits that there were headaches.

Ayes Amewuda, the head of corporate marketing for BT, said: "You must separate work from domestic life, so we advise on the use of technologies, such as voicemail. We can also design technologies to make extended hours possible."

BT's findings are backed by the Future Foundation, a commercial think-tank specialising in analysing and forecasting trends.

The foundation says that many businesses have a time pattern set before the Second World War. Melanie Howard, a director of the foundation, observed that most have not changed at all in the past five years and have no plans to change.

She said: "They will lose out. If you want to stay ahead of the game, you have to extend your operation. It is no longer acceptable to say 'We are closed'."

The foundation's research showed that many companies now work outside normal hours to hit a deadline or to trade with businesses in other time zones.

This creates a need for suppliers to be available to service malfunctioning computers, photocopiers and other equipment.

The foundation advises all companies to find out from their customers what services they want out of normal hours in order to supply them.

In the City of London, said Mrs Howard, 24-hour offices have spawned new businesses, such as cafes and cleaning companies, to cater for them during the small hours.

The 24-hour society is part of Britain's new economic growth, said Mr Amewuda.

He predicted: "It will create more jobs because companies can take on more."

Firms facing choice between failure and getting ready for 24-hour working

By BRIAN COLLETT

THE demand for business to be conducted beyond normal hours and even during the night has become so strong that BT has formed a consulting group to advise companies on extending the working day.

At the same time, there is the threat that companies could fail if they refuse to lengthen their hours to satisfy the needs of customers.

BT research showed that one in five customers wanted service on demand and many were willing to pay up to 5 per cent more for it outside conventional working times.

Some supermarkets already open round the clock and telephone banking is often a 24-hour operation.

The big demand, however, is for evening and weekend services, which may involve staff working from home - handling insurance sales and queries, for example.

The consulting group, serving businesses with turnovers of £20 million or more, advises them to check that home working does not disrupt an employee's family life and that health and safety regulations are followed.

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BRIEFINGS

whose profitability fell from 16.3 to 14.5 per cent, and engineering, down from 10.9 to 8.4 per cent.

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Royal Bank of Scotland has an invoice finance scheme for businesses with annual turnover as low as £50,000. It will lend up to 85 per cent of outstanding invoices.

European currency in its first wave, whereas the figure rose in Germany, France, Italy, Luxembourg and Belgium, which are leading the single currency push.

BT is waiving the charge for connection to its Freephone 0800 service until July 12.

BT research showed that one in five customers wanted service on demand and many were willing to pay up to 5 per cent more for it outside conventional working times.

Tips for small businesses on fighting crime are contained in Protect your Business, a booklet from NatWest Insurance Services.

Two more books in the Management Guide series by Ravette Publishing come out this month. They are Asserting Yourself and Handling Stress.



"I see that it's not only the Millennium Bug that fails to recognise the year 2000"

BUSINESS TO BUSINESS

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

SWEET SMELL OF SUCCESS

New French Perfume & Cologne dispenser that wins an award of fragrance for 20p. Ideal for every swimming pool, health & fitness club plus thousands of Pubs, Restaurants, Nightclubs and Casinos etc.

BUSINESS FOR SALE

FOR SALE

HI FASHION DESIGNER SHOP. Retailing in very high fashion designer accessories. Situated in West End in most sought after location near famous stores.

BUSINESS SERVICES

COMPANY DIRECTORS ARE CREDITORS AND BANKS PRESSING? Business in trouble and you need someone on your side? We can help you take charge.

NEED HELP? Finding the right professional adviser. Company Voluntary Arrangements saves your company and keeps your creditors satisfied.

FRANCHISES

Our Message is Profitability. Invest in a Message Pad state of the art call centre and you will be using the most advanced messaging technology in the world.

COMPUTERS & COMPUTING SERVICES

It's Time... for the Deal of the Year!

Advertisement for TIME COMPUTER SYSTEMS featuring a 333-2 Win98PC system with various specifications and pricing. Includes a 'MONEY BACK GUARANTEE' badge and a 'FREE' offer on software.

TENDERS AND CONTRACTS

DELIVERY OF THE 25+ NEW DEAL AUTUMN PILOTS FOR UNEMPLOYED PEOPLE

The Government has recently announced a range of pilots which will be developed to support 90,000 long term unemployed people across the UK aged 25 and over, as part of the Welfare to Work initiative.



Vertical text on the right edge of the page, including page number 41 and various small notices.

هكذا من الأصل

RESULTS AND STATISTICS

TODAY

Interims: Eldridge Pope & Co, McCreed Russel Holdings, CA Sparril, Trust, Unicredit...

TOMORROW

Interims: Airtrun, Alders, Finlets: Anglian Water, British Airways, EMI Group, Energis, Shires...

THURSDAY

Interims: PWS Holdings, Scottish Inv Trust, J Smart Contractors, Stalco...

FRIDAY

Interims: Kelsey Inds, RCO Holdings, Finlets: Bristol Water Holdings, Fuller, Smith & Turner...

TOURIST RATES

Table with columns for Bank, Sale, and various international rates for countries like Australia, Austria, Belgium, etc.

COMPANIES



MICHAEL CLARK

Profits fail to take off at BA

BRITISH AIRWAYS: The proposed strategic alliance with American Airlines looks even more precarious than it did when the deal was first mooted 18 months ago...



On a wing: Bob Ayling's hopes for an alliance with American Airlines are looking fragile

BAA GROUP: A flat performance is expected when the group unveils full-year results today. Pre-tax profits are expected to come in at between £470 million and £480 million compared with £444 million in 1997...

Segram, the North American drinks group, to pull out of bid talks has left a question mark over the group's future. Full-year results tomorrow, will do little to allay fears...

THORN: Full-year results tomorrow will also provide the City with the platform to try to establish the identity of the company that has made a bid approach and how far down the line the talks have been taken...

ANGLIAN WATER: The dividend reporting season for the water companies gets underway tomorrow, with final results from Anglian, which is still on the lookout for a new finance director after the promotion of Chris Mellor to managing director...

Merrill Lynch, the broker, is forecasting pre-tax profits of £272 million compared with £243 million last time. The market consensus is around the £270 million mark. Brokers will no doubt focus on Anglian's other interests...

SOUTH WEST WATER: A flat performance is expected when the group unveils final results on Thursday, with pre-tax profits likely to come in at around £120 million. Last year it reported a surplus of £125 million...

ENERGIS: Brokers are confident the group can meet top-of-the-range forecasts when it reports its first set of annual results as a listed company tomorrow. Morgan Stanley, the US securities house, is predicting a pre-tax loss of £60.1 million compared with a loss of £77.5 million the previous year...

AIRTOURS: Attention will be on the level of summer bookings when the group reports half-year results tomorrow. Bookings were up by 12 per cent at the end of the first quarter but the trend towards early bookings could see a lower overall figure...

ECONOMIC OUTLOOK

Markets to home in on industrial trends survey

A quiet time for British economic statistics in a Bank Holiday-shortened week kicks off with Thursday's publication of the latest monthly trends survey from the Confederation of British Industry. Given the debate about exactly how much pressure industry is under from the sterling exchange rate, this will be closely watched by the markets...

JANET BUSH

SUNDAY TIPS

The Sunday Times: Buy Courtaulds, Sedgemoor, Glynwed, Alders, Tilbury Douglas, and Hold Tunstall, Sunderland FC, Cranswick. The Sunday Telegraph: Buy Thorn Lighting Group, Gowings, Tea Plantations, Kier Group, Alders, and Sell Anglian Water, BAA, Newsquest...

AN EXCLUSIVE OFFER THE TIMES

Sinatra: 4-CD set just £9.90

100 TRACKS GIVING MORE THAN 4 HOURS OF THE FINEST SINATRA

Today The Times offers readers a fantastic four-CD box-set featuring 100 classic tracks from the incomparable Frank Sinatra. The tracks have been carefully selected from a number of different sources, including radio and live recordings, from the earliest years when the crooner was developing his career...

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The four CDs are entitled Supreme Sinatra, Sensational Sinatra, Swingin' Sinatra and Sentimental Sinatra. Each CD features 25 superb tracks and costs only £5 each. Or you can collect three tokens from The Times this week and buy the whole collection for only £9.90. Postage and packing is FREE in the UK. Attach your differently numbered tokens to the order form below. No photocopies of tokens will be accepted.



- SUPREME SINATRA 1. I've Got You Under My Skin 2. All The Way 3. Tea For Two 4. At Long Last Love 5. On a Little Street in Singapore 6. It's a Lovely Day Tomorrow 7. Monique 8. Where or When 9. On the Road to Mandalay 10. Oh, What a Beautiful Morning 11. Polka Dots and Moonbeams 12. Whispering 13. Poor You 14. This is the Beginning of the End 15. The Call of the Canyon 16. Ciriabirin 17. Everything Happens to Me 18. A Sinner Kissed An Angel 19. Here Comes the Night 20. Say It 21. It's Funny to Everyone but Me 22. Looking For Yesterday 23. For You 24. Light a Candle in the Chapel 25. All or Nothing at All

- SENSATIONAL SINATRA 1. You Make Me Feel So Young 2. The Lady is a Tramp 3. On the Sunny Side of the Street 4. Dancing in the Dark 5. This Love of Mine 6. In the Blue of the Evening 7. Street of Dreams 8. The Sunshine of Your Smile 9. Trade Winds 10. Shake Down the Stars 11. Just One of Those Things 12. East of the Sun (And West of the Moon) 13. Our Love Affair 14. You and I 15. Out of Nowhere 16. Daybreak 17. How About You? 18. I'll Be Seeing You 19. People Will Say We're in Love 20. You Might Have Belonged to Another 21. Take Me 22. Let's Get Away From It All 23. The Sky Fell Down 24. Bewitched 25. Night and Day

- SWINGIN' SINATRA 1. Come Fly With Me 2. I Get a Kick Out of You 3. Without a Song 4. Begin the Beguine 5. I've Got My Love to Keep Me Warm 6. Fools Rush In 7. When Your Lover Has Gone 8. There are Such Things 9. The Moon was Yellow 10. I Don't Stand a Ghost of a Chance 11. Tell Me at Midnight 12. I'll Never Let a Day Pass By 13. Oh! Look at Me Now 14. Anything Is, Not So Long Ago 16. The Night We Called it a Day 17. Shadows on the Sand 18. Just as I Thought You Were Here 19. Devil May Care 20. April Played the Fiddle 21. From the Bottom of My Heart 22. Pale Moon 23. They Didn't Believe Me 24. Blue Sues 25. Stardust

- SENTIMENTAL SINATRA 1. My Funny Valentine 2. Love Me Or Leave Me 3. Melancholy Mood 4. Somebody Loves Me 5. All This and Heaven Too 6. Imagination 7. Close to You 8. Moments in the Moonlight 9. Yours is My Heart Alone 10. Too Romantic 11. Head on My Pillow 12. You Are Love 13. You're Breaking My Heart All Over Again 14. Love Me as I Am 15. It's Always You 16. I'll Never Smile Again 17. Be Careful, It's My Heart 18. I Could Make You Care 19. You're Lonely and I'm Lonely 20. Where Do You Keep Your Heart? 21. Two in Love 22. You'll Never Know 23. Last Call for Love 24. The One I Love Belongs to Somebody Else 25. Moonlight in Vermont



THE TIMES SINATRA COLLECTION CD ORDER FORM. Includes fields for Product, Code, Price, Qty, Total, Name on card, Address, Postcode, Day Tel, and checkboxes for Free p&P, Republic of Ireland & EC, and Credit Card Payment.

CHANGING TIMES

Now you see it, now you don't. Immediately after the Asian currency crisis broke last autumn, the world was awash with scare stories about the imminent meltdown of the world economy. Then, after a few months, with little apparent sign of effects on Western economies, financial markets sounded the all-clear.

When will they ever learn? Economic events take time to gather momentum and to pass their way through the system. If the Asian crisis was ever going to have really important effects on the West, it was surely through its interaction with the region's economic superpower and the world's second-largest economy — Japan.

Admittedly, the crisis affecting some Asian countries has eased, and Indonesia may now be on the road to improvement. But far from getting better, the Japanese situation has worsened. The West is still threatened with a storm from the East.

The direct effect of the Asian crisis on the West was due to come via two channels. First, the reduction in domestic demand would reduce western exports. This effect would probably come through pretty quickly. Secondly, as a result of weaker currencies, Asian suppliers would now be in a good position to sell more in the West, thereby taking sales away from Western producers. This second effect would take longer because of the difficulties of companies scarred by the financial crisis getting trade finance

Picture is far from rosy in the Japanese garden



from local banks who were themselves severely weakened by it.

But now there are signs that Asian exports are responding. The latest US trade figures revealed a deficit of \$13 billion (£7.8 billion), the worst on record. The figures not only showed that exports to Pacific Rim countries were down by 15 per cent over the year, but also that imports from this region were up by 11 per cent.

Meanwhile, the latest Japanese trade figures also showed a growing Asian effect. Exports to the rest of Asia fell by 18 per cent, leading to the first drop in exports overall for almost three years.

For an economy where exports have been just about the only component showing growth, the implications are dire. On the latest figures, industrial production was down 5 per cent on the year, and figures due out this week may show it falling further.

Another data release should confirm that even on the exaggerated official measure, prices are hardly rising at all. In fact, inflation would be a blessing — and not even in disguise. The problem is how to get prices higher. Properly measured,

they are already falling. Moreover, deflation is now burnt into consumer psychology. Save and you may well be able to buy cheaper. Save in the form of notes kept in the safe and you will avoid the chance of losing money in a bank collapse. (That is why sales are just about the fastest-selling consumer item in Japan at the moment.)

The Government could do more to boost the economy by cutting taxes — and not just temporarily. But it is having to shoot at a moving target.

This week also sees publication of the latest unemployment figures. They will be beneficently low by

Western standards — about 4 per cent. Yet this is a disaster for the Japanese, and the figures are rising sharply. For the first time since the Second World War, Japanese workers are having to come to terms with the threat of unemployment. No wonder they are not keen to increase spending.

Japan is barraged with Western advice about how to get out of its travails, much of it from the same people who have had a hand in the management of the former Soviet Union. Their advice has the same flavour of easy certainty — allow the yen to depreciate, regardless of the chances that this would unleash a wave of competitive devaluation across Asia, and introduce radical structural reforms, regardless of the effect on consumer and business confidence.

You would think that the Russian experience would have introduced a little modesty, but no. In fact, the Japanese predicament is, in one sense, strangely parallel to the Russian one — the need to stop doing things in a peculiar Japanese way and to start behaving more like the West.

Although its system has been

"capitalist", in many ways Japan has operated like a controlled economy. In particular, with the role of profits closely circumscribed, there has been an accent on sheer scale of output and market share which has resulted in grotesque misallocations of resources, as well as producing a teetering financial system.

It is difficult for us to imagine now, but 30 years ago the CIA was seriously worried about the Soviet economy overtaking the US. Yes, I know that Japan has been outstandingly successful in some key high-tech areas. So, by the way, was the Soviet Union, not least in the highest of high-tech, space exploration. But the former Soviets have not had to grapple with Japan's second problem — deflation. Moreover, Japan's two problems are related. Deregulate and free up the labour market, and you risk making the deflation problem worse.

Japan should beware the pedlars of quick-fix medicine. She surely needs to scotch the deflation danger before embarking on big structural reform.

Escaping from this mess is going to be a long, drawn-out process, which will continue to act as a serious drag on the world economy for many years. It is clear that the Japanese economy and society need to be reformed. That's the easy bit. But how does Japan safely get from here to there? As the Irishman said when asked the way to Cork: "I'd rather not be starting from here."

Cassidy to face revolt over Oliver share issue

By JASON NISSÉ

DENIS CASSIDY, recently ousted as chairman of Liberty, the department store group, is facing a shareholder revolt at Oliver Group, the shoe retailer he chairs.

The former British Home Stores and Boddings chief, whose other interests include a non-executive directorship of Newcastle United and the chair of Fidelity, the troubled electrical group, looks set to preside over an embarrassing defeat for the board of Oliver over an ambitious plan to revamp the company.

Oliver's board is proposing that the company raise £5.7 million through a placing with institutional shareholders that will dilute by half the holdings of those investors who cannot, or do not want to, take part.

The plan needs a clear majority of more than 75 per cent of those voting at the extraordinary shareholders' meeting in Leicester today. Shareholders speaking for more than 10 per cent of Oliver's capital have contacted *The Times* to say they are opposed to the deal.

Peter Gyllenhammer, a relative of Per, chairman of Commercial Union, owns 4.4 per cent and speaks for another 4.3 per cent. He said: "I am very negative about this placing. It comes at a very bad time and is a sensitive issue and is being put forward in a way that is not very nice to the small shareholders."

Some of the Oliver family, which controls more than 12 per cent of the shares, are also opposed to the issue, and Mr Cassidy is attempting to woo other family members before the meeting. The largest institutional investors — led by Flemings and Prudential — are backing the fund raising

and are taking up shares in the placing.

The shares are being issued to institutions at 25p compared with a share price that in the last year has stood at more than 40p. The move follows a year when Oliver made pre-tax losses of £2.2 million yet Mr Cassidy received a bonus of £56,000, taking his salary to £116,000 and other directors were given bonus payments amounting to £92,000.

The issue is also costing Oliver £600,000 in fees — nearly 10 per cent of the money raised. Much of this is going to Bell Lawrie White, the broker to the placing, which recently became joint adviser to the company, with Cazenove.

Martin Watts, managing director of Oliver, told shareholders that the money would be used to revamp the shoe chain to take advantage of the withdrawal of British Shoe Corporation, the subsidiary of Sears, from the market.

A spokesman for the company said it was confident that shareholders would vote for the fund raising and would not say what the board's reaction to a defeat might be.



Cassidy: ousted at Liberty

Europe lends more to Asia as others pull back

By JANET BUSH, ECONOMICS EDITOR

EUROPEAN banks continued to increase their lending to the troubled economies of Asia in the second half of last year. Meanwhile, their Japanese and American cousins reduced their exposure, according to the latest figures from the Bank for International Settlements (BIS).

By the end of last year, when the crisis had already erupted, European banks accounted for 47 per cent of all loans to the region, an increase on the 44 per cent registered at the mid-point of last year.

German, French and British banks accounted for 13 per cent, 11 per cent and 8 per cent of the end of 1997 total respectively.

In contrast, Japanese and North American banks began to reduce their exposure to emerging economies in Asia in the final six months of last year. This still left Japanese banks with 30 per cent of total exposure against nearly 32 per cent in mid-1997 and American banks with 9.7 per cent, down from 10.1 per cent.

Despite the market turmoil which emerged last autumn, the make-up of lending remained worryingly short-term. In mid-1997, BIS figures showed that 62.3 per cent of all

loans had maturities of a year or less. That figure had fallen to 60.6 per cent by the end of last year.

The BIS said that banking funds to individual countries in Asia were well sustained until the very last stage of the crisis.

Its figures show that bank lending to Latin American and European countries increased during the last six months of 1997, suggesting that there was little contagion from the loss of confidence in Asia to other emerging markets. European banks were particularly active new lenders to these other regions.

The BIS is changing its reporting structure to produce quarterly statistics in order to respond to criticism from central banks that its figures are too late to provide an early warning of financial problems. The BIS also intends to increase the number of countries from which it collects data and to provide more detail on the ultimate risk of lending.

On Friday, Japanese banks announced heavy losses as a result of their efforts to deal with bad debts. Among them was Bank of Tokyo-Mitsubishi, the market leader.

Lloyd's names set to outline survival plan

LLOYD's names who claim they are being forced out of the London market in favour of corporate capital are expected today to present a document outlining how they intend to fight for their futures (Marianne Curphey writes).

The names believe Lloyd's is considering dispensing with individuals with unlimited liability after Ron Sandler, chief executive, said the "annual venture" — the mechanism that allows names to shift between insurance syndicates — had "outlived its usefulness".

Sir David Berriman, chairman of the Association of Lloyd's Members, and Michael Deery, a former member of Lloyd's Council, are involved in the campaign for the survival of the 6,500 names who make up 45 per cent of the market.

CHANGE ON WEEK

US dollar	1.6329 (+0.0036)
German mark	2.8697 (-0.0324)
Exchange index	102.5 (-0.7)
Bank of England official close (4pm)	

STOCKMARKETS

FT 30 share	3888.9 (-5.7)
FTSE 100	5955.6 (+37.8)
New York Dow Jones	9114.44 (+18.44)
Tokyo Nikkei Avge	15801.65 (+558.79)

STAR ALLIANCE
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Pres
tough
rail

ICS settle

Share
pressure

30p THE

FOOTBA
FREE ZO

Prescott faces tough choice on rail regulation

By Carl Mortished

REGULATION of the privatised rolling stock companies could become a political dilemma for the Government...

soon if he wishes to find a replacement, but he has yet to inform Mr Swift of his plans. Mr Prescott said that he was "grateful" for the Rail Regulator's "detailed piece of analysis"...



John Swift's approach to rail regulation is at odds with the views of a committee of MPs

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Glynwed businesses sold for £100m

GLYNWED INTERNATIONAL has sold its stainless steel and aluminium distribution businesses for £100 million and is looking for a buyer for its metals processing business...

Saab production boost

SAAB, the Swedish carmaker, yesterday launched a SKr1.2 billion (£96 million) investment programme including the launch of a new station wagon and announced plans to increase production at two plants...

Fraud toll rises 27%

THE UK suffered 55 cases of fraud involving more than £100,000 in 1997, costing a total of £120 million, according to KPMG Forensic Accounting...

Co-op sees profit slip

THE Co-op, Britain's biggest retailer with 4,500 outlets, saw trading profits slip to £118 million (£135 million) last year on national sales up 2.8 per cent at £82 billion (£79 billion)...

ICS settles with lender over home-income plans

By Gavin Lumisden

THE Investors' Compensation Scheme has reached an out-of-court settlement in its test case with the West Bromwich Building Society over the mis-selling of home-income plans in the 1980s...

victims of the plans, was seeking to recover up to £15 million from the society. More than 3,000 elderly homeowners were caught up in the home-income plan scandal until the scheme was abolished in 1991...

many were threatened with repossession and mounting debts when interest rates rose and the stock market and property prices collapsed. In February the ICS and solicitors representing 350 investors finally took the WBSBS to court...

advice that their IFA, Fisher Prew Smith, the biggest promoter of home-income plans which went into liquidation in 1991, was bad and that the plans he was selling were fundamentally unsound...

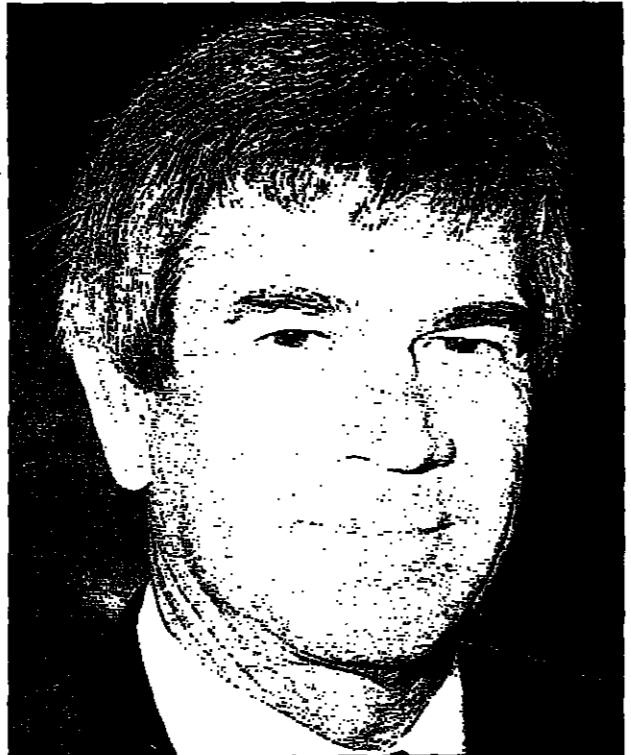
Northern Rock, Alliance & Leicester, Bristol & West and National Counties Building Society. Sources close to the deal say the solicitors, Barnett Sampson and J Keith Park, have not settled with WBSBS...

□ In an earlier report we inadvertently described Fisher Prew Smith as a "tied agent". It was in fact an IFA. Our reference to an unpublished report by Fimbra, the former financial watchdog, omitted to say that the regulator acknowledged in court last November that it was merely a draft that had not expressed any firm or final conclusions about the role of WBSBS in connection with equity release lending.

Share placing puts pressure on Billiton

By Jon Ashworth

SHARES in Billiton, the mining group, are expected to come under pressure today after reports of a "botched" share placing led by Dresdner Kleinwort Benson, the German-owned investment bank...



Brian Gilbertson of Billiton, which was unbundled last year

with the position and bought it at a discount, at a price which was already depressed by previous marketing by another firm. Billiton, which is run by Brian Gilbertson, was unbundled last year from Genor...

the South African mining house, and saw its shares listed in London at 22p. Sentiment surrounding the company has been damaged by the Asian economic crisis and the sharp falls in world commodity prices.

Pensions mis-selling has yet to bring bans

By Caroline Merrell

THE £11 billion personal pensions mis-selling scandal has not resulted in one director or manager being barred from the financial services industry. In March, the Personal Investment Authority said it was prepared to bar individuals from working in financial services if it felt that they had been incompetent in compensating victims of pensions mis-selling...

The failure to exclude anyone will fuel fears that regulation of the sector is inadequate. The pensions mis-selling scandal has now dragged on for nearly a decade.

LEGAL NOTICES

IN THE GRAND COURT OF THE CAYMAN ISLANDS Cause No. 78 of 1995. In the Matter of Bishops Court (BS) Limited (formerly BARING SECURITIES LIMITED) and in the Matter of the Companies Law (1995 Revision). NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Joint Official Liquidators of the above named company which is being wound up pursuant to an order of the Court dated 10th September 1997...

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE CHANCERY DIVISION COMPANIES COURT. No. 006303 of 1996 No. 01056 of 1998 No. 01057 of 1998. In the Matter of BARINGS PLC (In Liquidation) In the Matter of Bishops Court (BGH) Limited (formerly BARING GROUP HOLDINGS LIMITED) (In Liquidation) In the Matter of Bishops Court (BB&Co.) Limited (formerly BARING BROTHERS AND CO., LIMITED) (In Liquidation) and in the Matter of the Insolvency Act 1986...

1 & 7 PROPERTY HOLDINGS LIMITED. NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, pursuant to Section 45(2) of the Insolvency Act 1986, that a Meeting of the Shareholders of the above named company will be held at 4 Grosvenor Gardens, London SW1M 3EX at 14.30 hours on 4th June 1998 for the purpose of having before the Shareholders a copy of the report prepared by the Administrative Receiver of the Company...

NOTICE OF APPOINTMENT OF LIQUIDATOR Pursuant to Section 109 of the Insolvency Act 1986, I, CHRISTOPHER PAUL MILLET, Chartered Accountant, have been appointed as Liquidator of the above named company by the Court...

THE TIMES



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Look out for this sign from June 1st for your World Cup alternative. http://www.the-times.co.uk

Electrical price fall ruled out

By Sarah Cunningham, Retail Correspondent

HOPES that the prices of televisions and washing machines are about to come down by as much as 20 per cent because of a ban on recommended retail prices are ill-founded, according to research released today. Verdict, the retail consultant, says that shops cannot afford to offer big discounts on electrical goods as they are, in the main, already operating on tight margins...



ROGER BOOTLE 44

Not so rosy in Japan's garden

BUSINESS EDITOR Patience Wheatcroft

BUSINESS

MONSTER MOVE 46

Small fry chase the big bucks

TUESDAY MAY 26 1998



Managers could bid \$1bn for PolyGram film arm

By CHRIS AYRES

POLYGRAM's film division, behind hits such as TrainSpotting and Four Weddings and a Funeral...

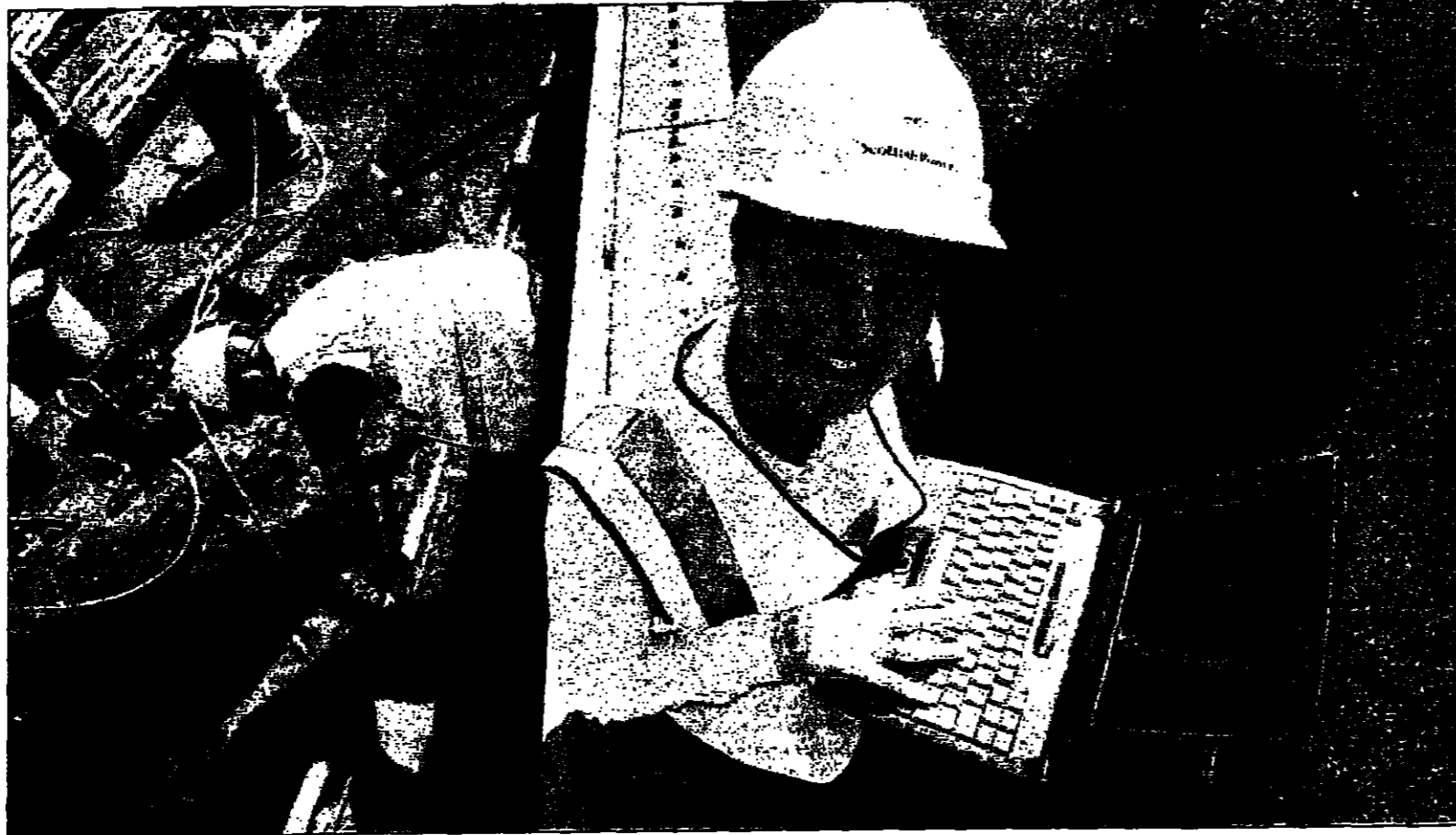
PolyGram was bought last week for \$10.6 billion by Seagram, the Canadian owner of Universal Studios...

Reports over the weekend said that Michael Kuhn, president of PFE, had written to staff saying a management buyout was a possibility...

Mr Levy has overseen more than \$1.2 billion of investment in PFE over the past seven years...

There is likely to be interest from other film companies in PFE. Canal Plus, Europe's largest pay television company...

Other European media companies, such as France's Pathé, Germany's Kirch and Britain's Carlton Communications, are also believed to be interested.



Power-surfing: ScottishPower is using the Internet to help its road-diggers to log into a map of the network in an attempt to reduce power failures

Biotech director left quietly to keep options

By PAUL DURMAN

THE former research and development director of British Biotech has admitted that he feels guilty for failing to take a stand against the company's flawed strategy...

Dr Lewis's letter will add to pressure on British Biotech's board, which last week dismissed Dr Millar's allegations as unfounded...

McCullagh has agreed to stand down as chief executive. Writing to Dr Millar shortly before this announcement, Dr Lewis said: 'I left quietly and now I feel guilty about it...'

When I finally realised that Keith was not going to accept any soft landing by merging the company or out-licensing products to lay off the risks then I knew I had to leave...

As the board member who was responsible for British Biotech's drug development programmes, Dr Lewis has been heavily implicated by Dr Millar's criticisms...

Millar held him responsible for the failure of British Biotech's board to recognise his mounting doubts about the prospects for its pancreatic and cancer drugs...

However, Dr Lewis told Dr Millar: 'I do not hate you and I do admire what you have done. It is utterly in character. Your letter to the FT in which Dr Millar outlined his doubts...



Lewis: heavily implicated

price collapsed to its current level below 60p. Dr Lewis also made £1.5 million from options in December 1995...

In a sworn statement produced for The Times, Dr Millar has said that from November 1996 he regularly briefed Dr Lewis that the emerging results from the trials of Zaccutax in pancreatic and marimastat in pancreatic cancer were not consistent with the company's optimism...

This is the one point of Dr Millar's account that Dr Lewis disputes. He wrote: 'On the US trial of Zaccutax I honestly do not recall you telling me of interim results...'

Dr Lewis sold 625,000 of British Biotech shares in March 1997. He is understood to have made more than £1 million when he cashed in his remaining interest in the company last summer...

Trinity in merger talks with Mirror Group

By RAYMOND SNODDY, MEDIA EDITOR

TRINITY International, the UK's largest regional newspaper group, has begun merger talks with the Mirror Group...

Philip Graf, Trinity's chief executive, has had several meetings with David Montgomery, Mirror's chief executive...

Although the talks are at an early stage and no formal proposals have been made, according to banking sources, a merger between the two is a serious prospect...

The Mirror Group has problems of its own. Its directors are convinced that their empire is too small...

A tie-up with Trinity would follow a strategy of diversifying into local papers. Mirror owns Midland Independent Newspapers...

A number of problems would have to be resolved to secure a deal. The first is the management structure of the enlarged group...



Montgomery: private lunch

Music body targets telecoms

By CHRIS AYRES

BRITISH Music Rights, the copyright protection organisation that includes the Performing Rights Society, will this week call on the Government to make telecoms companies liable for rights infringements...

The organisation says Britain's £2.5 billion music industry faces a serious threat from the Internet and digital broadcasting. However, European telecoms operators are likely to argue that current laws are...

strong enough, and that it would be hugely costly to monitor all material carried over their networks.

British music writers and publishers already lose about £40 million a year to illegally produced compact discs. They fear that new forms of broadcasting over telephone wires will lead to an explosion in copyright crime.

Rock bands such as U2 have suffered at the hands of Internet pirates, when their...

album Pop was illegally released online before it was even available in the shops.

Nanette Riggs, director-general of British Music Rights, said yesterday: 'What we are trying to do is get a status quo. In the physical world, creators and broadcasters enter into an arrangement to pay for copyright and each party has a certain amount of liability. With new forms of distribution, the chain of supply is going to break down...'

Camelot to make £80m despite drop in Instants

By JON ASHWORTH

CAMELOT, the National Lottery operator, is set to announce a sharp rise in profits despite a disastrous slump in sales of Instants.

Figures due out next week will show that Instants sales dramatically fell from £877 million to £791 million in the year to March 31. This compares with sales of £1.5 billion in 1995...

It was the leaking of the 1996 figures a year ago - with disclosures of pay rises of up to 90 per cent for Camelot directors - that triggered a near-disastrous clash with the Government over 'fat cat' pay.

The latest figures are likely to confirm further generous pay rises for the Camelot board, led by Tim Holley, the chief executive, who saw his pay in 1996 reach £90,000 - more than half of it in bonuses.

Camelot has replaced the incentive plan with a loyalty bonus scheme aimed at discouraging staff from leaving before the current lottery licence ends in September 2001. Under the scheme, senior executives will be entitled to 12 months' basic salary on top of their regular pay...

The decline in Instants is a continuing worry for Camelot, which has struggled to inject new life into its scratchcard games. Weekly sales of Instants peaked at £44.4 million in May 1995 but were averaging £14 million to £16 million a week in 1997. They hit a low of £12 million over Christmas.

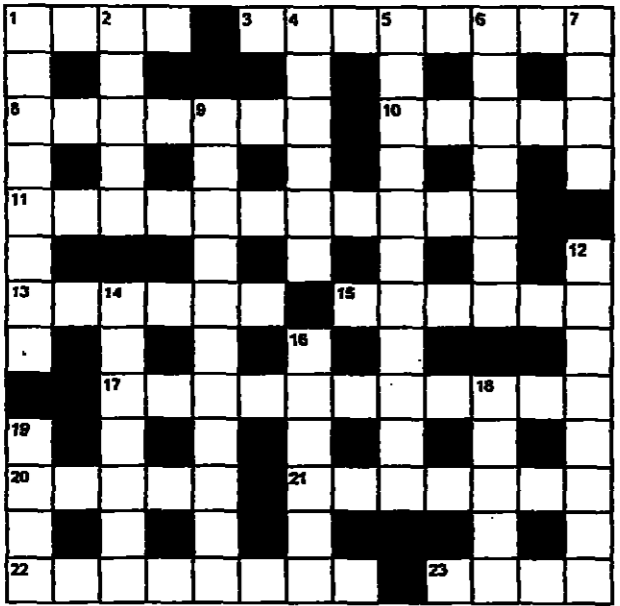
Camelot launched its controversial TV Dreams game show to try to revive interest in Instants, but the latest figures show sales stuck at £14 million a week. The National Lottery Big Ticket show had its debut on March 28 and is unlikely to go beyond its 16-week run.

New Deal extended to over-25s

JOBLESS people over 25 will today be brought into the Government's New Deal under plans to be announced by Andrew Smith, Employment Minister (Janet Bush writes).

Employers will receive a £75-a-week subsidy to take on some of the 194,400 over-25s out of work for two years or more. The new programme comes in response to widespread criticism of the Government's decision to devote the vast bulk of the windfall tax on utilities to helping a dwindling number of long-term unemployed under-25s. Unlike with the New Deal for the young, there is no compulsion to take a job, but claimants could lose benefit for refusing work without good reason.

TIMES TWO CROSSWORD



No 1415

ACROSS

- 1 Shipshape (4)
3 Blameworthy (8)
8 Abu Simbel pharaoh; mere ass? (anag.) (7)
10 Too fat (5)
11 Pop-music-writing district (3,3,5)
13 German art songs (6)
15 Entertained (6)
17 Travelling (teacher) (11)
20 Lean veal-neck (end); to 1 dn (5)
21 Appearing before judge (2,5)
22 C17 Protestant sect (8)
23 Catcall (4)

DOWN

- 1 Strangle; sort of valve (8)
2 Evil spirit (5)
4 Remove (rider, MP) (6)
5 Causing difficulties (11)
6 Farewells; (baby's) sleep (3-4)
7 At any time (4)
9 Pre-performance panic (5,6)
12 Teacher (8)
14 Ruler; Beethoven's 5th piano concerto (7)
16 Possible choice (6)
18 Temp. cease-fire agreement (5)
19 At earliest convenience (abbr.) (4)

SOLUTION TO NO 1414

ACROSS: 3 Nazareth 7 Athene 8 Humbug 9 Snazzy 10 Dazzle 11 Gaze 13 Trice 15 Pest 17 Zigzag 18 Azalea 19 Larder 20 Nuzzle 21 Detonate
DOWN: 1 Stanza 2 Guzzle 3 New Year 4 Adulate 5 Embuzzle 6 Huguenot 11 Grizzled 12 Ziggurat 13 Trade in 14 Cézanne 15 Piazza 16 Seemly

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